The Battalion

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

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Associ

Watch for Fire Traps

"For twenty years I have traveled 25,000 miles annually in fire prevention work. Each year I am astonished how frequently luck plays the major role in safeguarding against disaster buildings where people assemble in large numbers. In far too many cases, ignorance or wanton disregard of the fundamentals of fire safety places your life and mine in jeopard," a national fire prevention worker recently wrote in Readers Digest.

He continued, for example: "In New England I saw a new movie theater, seating 2,000. It had a secondary exit as required by law; but this exit opened into a 41/2-foot areaway, which had no outlet. It could accommodate about twenty people. How would you like to be in a fire there on bank night? Equally startling was an auditorium seating five thousand, in which the secondary exit opened eight feet above the river—and not even a flight of steps

"In Ohio I got to church late on Sunday and found one of the main doors locked. The usher explained that it was the minister's idea—so he could get down to the door to greet everybody as they left. Meanwhile 750 people were dangerously confined in a building with only one inadequate exit. I saw the same foolhardy procedure in a hotel, where a watchman padlocked all the fire escape doors at night 'to keep burglars out.' In both cases, conditions were remedied when local fire chiefs promised to chop down the doors if they were found locked

Many of us confronted with facts like these, think they affect only the other fellow-that they don't exist where we live. The truth is that it's a rare town where similar glaring hazards don't exist. Those hazards are our problem. And it's our duty to eliminate them before tragedy occurs.

Let's Get Acquainted

There are many young people who attend colany sort of heart-to-heart talk with a single professor, the one free source that is available for the asking to acquaint, guide and initiate a young person in the ways of his elders and the world into which he must eventually go.

Most collegians don't seem to realize that the dignified, seemingly hard-boiled instructors were once just as young, just as green and inexperienced, just as troubled with moral and religious problems, and just as in need of help as students today. Above all, they are prone to look upon their professors as more or less mechanical machines, who live in a world apart from the students and whose prime objective is work for the sake of work.

Very few students try to see assigned work in the light that it is assigned them. On the other hand, the only way a professor can ascertain if an individual's inner spark is a mere reflection or a true fire is through testing his students.

In reality, if the professor's soul weren't compassionate and understanding, his life would never have been dedicated to the painstaking task of teaching our youth, which would be an intolerable existence if his character were otherwise. Furthermore, the majority of professors don't want their teaching to stop with classroom lectures and welcome nothing more than an office chat with a student.

Ignoring college parasites, who fool no one but themselves in trying to soft soap their way into good grades, it seems that more of us should strive to know through intimate association those who teach us. The road beyond college is arduous and long, and the counsel of our elders is necessary equipment.

"It's Really Spring!"

Following is an editorial entitled "It's Really Spring", which appeared in The Texas Aggie, newspaper published for ex-Aggies by the Former Students Association. This was in the April 15 issue, which also reprinted the complete, original story from The Battalion on the student body's campaign to get movies for College Station on an equal basis

IT'S REALLY SPRING

One of the surest signs that spring has arrived on the campus is some form of unusual and sometimes disturbing student activity. The Aggie presents elsewhere in this issue the student Battalion's account of a struggle between the cadet corps and the motion picture interests of Bryan.

Many former students will recall activities of

a similar general extracurricular nature developing at about this time of the year. For this reason the Aggie feels that former students will enjoy reading of this latest campus sensation.

In mentioning the matter in this vein, the Aggie has no intention of belittling the present efforts of the student body. In all fairness it would seem that there is something wrong with a business system whereby a community of approximately 9,000 people, over 6,000 of them students, can be denied first-run motion pictures.

But regardless of this particular issue, it seems to the Aggie there is something quite healthy in the uniform action of the entire student body in rallying behind its leaders for a cause it believes is fair and just. Further, so far as the Aggie has found, the entire student movement has been handled with care, and in such a way that no particular personalities, or meanness of thought or action, have been

At any rate, rest assured that spring is here.

Parade of Opinion

By Associated Collegiate Press CENSUS

The nation's college press, always ready to choose up sides for a healthy editorial slugfest, is in virtually unanimous agreement this week on one topic that has stirred bitter debate in other quarters.

The national census, those who guide the student publications believe, is not taking undue liberties by prying into private lives. Students in the nation's colleges and universities are being advised to cooperate fully in the decennial nose-count. And they're being reminded that statistics available only through the census are citally needed in solution of the nation's ills.

The Census Bureau, it is pointed out by the Glenville, W. Va., Teachers College Mercury, "needs in two ways the help of students in the gigantic task of assembling facts about 132 million Americans: First, by making sure that their parents will report them to the census enumerator, and second, by supplying their parents with certain information they will need in order to report on them accurately.

The University of Kansas Daily Kansan, while conceding that "the list of questions Uncle Sam has prepared for his Q-Men to ask for personal and intimate as well as multitudinous," adds that "cooperation with the 1940 census takers in every way, by every person in the country, will pay dividends in a number of ways."

Pointing out that revealing of financial secrets in income tax returns has stirred no storm of disapproval, The Daily Iowan at the University of Iowa observes that a more universal survey occuring only every ten years should not meet with any resentment. More important than the mere accumulation of figures is the necessity for full data for use in a long-needed attack on the unemployment

"Two things," believes the University of Minnesota Daily, "should keep the census above political taint. In the first place, the questions for the new census are not the product of a few bureaucrats, but have been prepared over a fairly long period with the aid of suggestions from private citizens and organizations. In the second place, if the government is to continue in the new social and economic era of public welfare, it must have fuller statistics to perform its task well."

Whatever thunderous political cries there may be "agin" the ten-year check-up, there can be little doubt that America's collegians are distinctly "fur"

As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

The meteoric invasion of Scandinavia has brought world-wide repercussions. The battle line has been drawn from Greenland to the Near East and no one can foresee where it may be extended tomorrow. Our neutrality has been seriously affected, both at home and abroad. Greenland has been brought within the orbit of the Mon-

roe Doctrine, and the President has

instructed the Red Cross to aid the

inhabitants of that region. Our eco-

nomic relations with Scandinavia

have been disrupted. Far more im-

portant for us is the changed atti-

tude of the American citizens who

trace their origins to the countries

recently occupied by Hitler. Poles,

Czechs, Slovaks, Austrians, and

Scandanavians number nearly 10,000,

V. K. Sugareff 000 people in the United States. They exert considerable influence on our present policy and will no doubt influence our future action. They are interested in an allied victory and will go far to help the allies win the war. As the war extends, we shall find it more difficult to maintain our neutrality.

The probability of an attack by Hitler on Belgium and Holland immediately brought the status of their colonial possessions into the limelight. The Dutch East Indies are of vital interest to us. We get \$100,000,000 worth of crude rubber from the East Indies and \$50,000,000 worth from the British Malay states. A large portion of our tin comes from that region, moreover. Japan has also expressed "deepest interest" in the status of the Dutch East Indies. Our reply to this expression of interest was a bill of approximately \$1,000,000,000 for naval armaments. There is already some contention for a navy large enough to defend both the Atlantic and Pacific

Mussolini hopes to profit from the latest war events, but it is doubtful that he will soon enter the war on the side of Hitler. The maneuvering of the Italian fleet in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea is hardly indicative of such a move. Italy needs her fleet in her home waters. Mussolini must be fully aware that no matter which side he joins in this war, he is bound to play a small role. Italy's exposed boundaries are a constant warning to Mussolini of

the great dangers to Italy, should he join Hitler. The Balkan states also are experiencing another case of jitters, but their independence is secured as long as the three dictators-Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini-cannot agree among themselves on the division of these regions.

George Fuermann

Down Military Walk . . . For the attractive extras could learn the ninth consecutive week, "Tuxedo Aggie yells and sound off in a body Junction" leads the Aggie hit pa- at the game, supplemented by what-

sonable attractive girl who is a that state of self-imposed superla-

reasonably good dancer will dance, tives. on an average, five and a half music measures with a partner be- A bartender's point of view: dances . . . Amongst other things, cently visiting in New Orleans, A. & M. is an engineering college: struck up a conversation with one Thousands of cadets depend daily of that city's more or less coloron the clock in the rotunda of the ful bartenders (as if a colorless bar-Academic Building in making class- tender ever existed!) without letes on time, but, for the second ting the whiskey-skeet know that time this year, the time-keeper is she was a Texan. "I don't suppose on a strike. How long this time? those Texans spent much money," that Harold "Frog" Duncan rated ply, "they traded in their boots tops in the world of large-size and spurs and came down with a shoes with 141/2, but Werner Goh- hatful of money!" After recover- WOOD FIRST IN mert takes Harold's measure with ing from this one, the Texan consize 15 . . . The Cadet Singers tinued her cross-examination with, have a new Aggie "fight" song "Were the Aggies a well-behaved which will be publicly presented bunch?" "Best-behaved group of engineering student, won first place for the first time on their current collegians ever to visit New Or- for A. & M. at the recent meeting spring tour. The corps will have an leans," was the quick deply. "Tex- of the American Association of time soon after the group returns "but they're not bad! They didn't Conference. The conference was next Sunday. The song, incidentally, make any trouble at all for us." held at Lubbock last Friday. The should prove to be a winner with Aggies everywhere . . . The annual Dallas, the Sheridan football, and the A. S. M. E., and Texas Tech influx of F. F. A. boys earlier this the Dallas A. & M. Club stag: was host this year to the 150 stuweek saw a tremendous drain on the Coach Norton, Walemon Price, dents who attended. Wood's selectsupply of collar ornaments possess- John Kimbrough, Ernie Pannell, ion on "Performance of Screened by local merchants. One "whole- and the writer marched on Dallas filled Cooling Towers" won the hog-or-none" lad had a string al- last Friday with Warner Brothers first place prize of \$35, the first most a foot long, composed of ev- representatives Henry Krumm and time an Aggie has ever placed so ery insignia available, running Bill Lewis. Texan Ann was abed high. Wood built a model of his down his shirt front.

California—here we come:

deal being . . hundreds of Warner's to.

rade. Maestro Jack Littlejohn fur- ever cadets and former students ther pointed out that are on hand. But the question that "All The involves a matter of principle Things You Are" is and Backwash would like to know again in second what you—the corps—think about place for the sec- the idea, which originated with ond week and a Warner Brothers publicity agent, newcomer, "John- Bill Lewis. son Rag," hit the One thing, incidentally, appears number three spot to be reasonably certain: The en-

fore she is cut-in on at A. & M. A College Station woman, re-Tuesday's column pointed out she said. "Oooh yes," was the reopportunity to hear it for the first ans are loud people," he concluded, Mechanical Engineering Student

Los Angeles next October for the Highlight of the trip was the conference are annual features U. C. L. A. game is uncertain— Dallas A. & M. Club's annual stag sponsored by Group Seven student and doubtful-but one thing ap- party held atop that city's Buick branches of the A. S. M. E. pears to be certain . . . we'll have Company. With 850 ex-students in a grade A, number-one yelling attendance, the brew and sand- nary a bobble. Warner Brothers will probably co- perience were in full sway. If all others. They are all "big-name'

Musical Meanderings *

By Murray Evans

rious ratings in The Battalion of worked. Nobody, and especially the the "name" orchestras visiting our Aggies out for a night of relaxacampus this semester. At the beginning of the season Lawrence a Sphinx-like aggregation of musiWelk and his grew were beented class on the stand Welk and his grew were beented class on the stand Welk and his grew were beented class on the stand Welk and his grew were beented class on the stand Welk and his grew were beented class on the stand Welk and his grew were beented class on the stand welk had differently we are greated when the Cummins replaced Welk as the was genuine. His band sounds eswriting Anson Weeks ranks tops in thumbs.

for my contention that "out of not much.) He overcame the handilast, laughs-or something.

roar and rant as you will.

four-piece rhythm section can nev- the bandstand thus far

Welk and his crew were boosted cians on the stand. Welk had an diffe favorite. But then Shep Fields mov- pecially good on recordings; this is ed in, and all the others were cast where defects, if present in any into the limbo of "so-so's." At this band, will stand out like sore

Why all this chronology, you Shep Fields should take over that ask? Well, it's just groundwork spot without any argument. (Well, sight, out of mind" is ruling the cap of a style designed for hotel roost when students are asked their dinner dancing and blossomed out favorite band of the season. It with a brand that pleased (and goes to prove that he who laughs surprised) all those skeptics who thought him incapable of satisfy-Of course we all differ; that's ing college dance requirements. what makes a horse race. But while Claire Nunn his songstress, can we're about it, let me toss in my teach Barbara Hutton a thing or say on the run, and then you may two about the art (you question?) of jitterbug singing. And when Lawrence Welk brought the best she wasn't singing, she was playband here to date, 'tis the humble ing a barrelful of piano. If you opinion of myself. His was an ex- didn't see the manner in which she tremely smooth, well-rehearsed or- attacked those ivories, it is your ganization. His arrangements con. loss; it looked something like the tained a hatful of new ideas in typewriter touch system. Also parthe realm of sweet swing. The elec- ticularly pleasing as male vocalist tric organ, presided over by the was Hal Derwin, guitarist de luxe, thoroughly capable Jerry Burk, and with a soft baritone voice which gave the rhythmic section a depth topped by a few shades the efforts and continuity that the ordinary of all other gentleman chirpers on

er touch. This instrument will pro- In conclusion, I would put Bervide plenty of competition for the nie Cummins in show place and piano, and may even supplant it omit all reasons for same, except in orchestras of the future. All of that every last one of his men was Welk's men were pleasingly ver- a veteran who played solidly, with

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Movie Peview

dreams and his engines. the sea and a little engineering to to follow their path with steam. help him perfect his plans and mod- The moving and gripping action els for his beloved engines. Old of this show transmits to the audi-

A.S.M.E. MEET

John W. Wood, senior mechanical with the flu, so the autographed cooling tower to help demonstrate football was given to the lovely air- his subject. Another Aggie, George line hostess, Norma Fredrickson, W. Wheeler of F Engineers, placed Whether or not very many cadets who will, in her own turn, give tenth in the contest with a paper will be able to follow the team to the ball to the Sheridan belle. on "Metalock." The contest and the

section in the stadium if we want wiches were plentiful, and the best Now none of these orchestras it. Unless the corps says "No," "bull session' of the writer's ex- stand head and shoulders above the operate in forming the first all- former student clubs are like the bands, top-notchers, and their repfemale yelling section for the Dallas organization, then being an utations were not dished to them on world's largest all-male college. The "ex" is something to look forward silver platters. Each has a style which is intended to please most of the people all of the time. Actually their ideas of rhythm and phrasing are identical in most respects. It is "style", the individual mark of each band, in which they satile and commercial enough to differ. And that, precisely, is what Here of late there have been va- register enjoyment while they makes the ranks of Joe Public

as the "best yet". Then Bernie ear-to-ear smile that you just knew subject of musical taste is con-

As thrilling a saga of the sea household and guardian to the old as has come out of Hollywood in mother's death, the mistress of the long time is being shown here man, is Margaret Lockwood. After today and tomorrow for the bene- passing through all the trials and fit of the Rural Sociology Club. more than any struggling inventor Not at all the least interesting part and visionary must go through, and of RULERS OF THE SEA is the meets the difficulties of legality, thick brogue and quaint syntax competition, getting a backer, etc., used by the English characters as Douglas and Will take one of their they portray early nineteenth cen- steam-propelled coastwise vessels tury English seamen and sea people. and start across the stormy north at the Cotton Ball tire Aggie Band will make the Especially Will Fyffe, as the old Atlantic. Margaret Lockwood comengineer and dreamer of steam es along as stewardess to be near and the following trip . . . and they deserve it. The engineer and dreamer of steam es along as stewardess to be near corps dance . . . show they will put on in California crossings of the Atlantic, gives sev- her father and Douglas, with whom Cadets haven't got a chance: A rea- will be almost without precedent in eral magnificent moments as he she is now in love. More trials and and ability found only in true gen-The story is of one of the first iuses finally carry them into New Atlantic crossings made by a ship York harbor victorious, but with entirely under the power of steam. lovable old Will Fyffe, the chief Douglas Fairbanks Jr. is an ambi- engineer dying from scalds caustious first mate on a sailing vessel ed by a burst steam pipe. Douglas, who quits his captain because of in his hour of triumph, promises cruelty to his men. Will Fyffe the dying father to take care of meets Douglas and is happy to his daughter and build better steam have found a young man who knows engines for the worlds of seamen

> Fyffe's daughter, and since her ence somewhat of the faith of the old inventor as he pleads for his beloved models. This is a truly great story of the sea and how man has conquered it with steam. Shorts for the program are a Ted Fio Rito orchestra number and a night club comedy.



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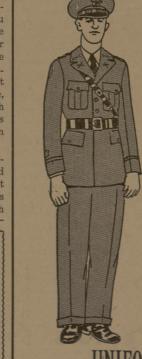
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