

The Battalion

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

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We Want More Tennis Courts!

When is the College going to build more tennis courts?—That is the most common of complaints heard on the campus every year about this time. This year a greater number have been heard to utter these words than ever before, and it's no wonder. Our student body has increased two-fold in the past four years, and to date, there are still just eight tennis courts for the use of the students. At the present time only four are available, due to the varsity tennis team practicing on the clay courts every afternoon.

It is acknowledged that tennis courts cannot be built for any small sum of money, but if more were built they would soon pay for themselves in giving more enjoyment to the faculty as well as the student tennis players. It is extremely disconcerting and annoying to run down to the courts to play tennis on one's only afternoon off and find the courts already filled and many more waiting to play.

A greater number of tennis courts has long been a need of A. & M. Some steps have been taken this year by the school authorities to afford more courts, but final steps and some real action are needed that more courts may be available to play on next year, thereby remedying a long-awaited necessity of the college.

Billy Clarkson

OPEN FORUM

DYING TRADITIONS

Anyone that has ever talked with an ex-Aggie will have heard tales of what is commonly known as the "good old days" here at A. & M. The days when A. & M. was considered a "man's" school, a school whose motto was "send us your son, we send back a man". A. & M. has been built on traditions; it is these famed traditions that has made the school what it is today.

But now we find that we are drifting away from these same traditions that our school was once noted for. When we try to determine why these traditions are dying a slow but sure death we meet with many answers. Some of them are that the boys are now entering A. & M. at a much younger age than they used to; that the old Aggie spirit is a thing of the past. This latter must be wrong from the way that the corps supported its team this past season. A more probable answer is that the school is outgrowing its own traditions.

When we say that the school is outgrowing its traditions we mean that the school is becoming too large in attendance to maintain the traditions. The rapidly growing attendance of the school has made it necessary to have two sets of campuses, the old area and the new area. This factor causes the school to be more divided than it was in the past. The contact between the boys has been cut down to some extent because those living in the new area only go to the old campus for classes, and those of the old area seldom find it necessary to come over to the new dormitory area. Not only are the dormitory areas divided but each year more project houses are being built. The fact that the school is growing larger is something that we can do nothing about, but we can work together instead of against each other.

The Commandant's Office is finding it necessary to cut out some of the old-time traditions because the larger the attendance of the school the more public opinion is brought to bear upon this office. It is public opinion that makes and changes the laws of any group and we cannot sit by and hope that A. & M. will be any exception to this age-old law.

In the past when Silver Taps was played, everyone in the school met in front of the Academic Building to observe it. Now Silver Taps is blown and observed in at least three different regions—the old campus, the new campus, and the project house area. This is only one tradition that is changing. It is not one that may be considered dead as yet but it is one that has lost much of its old-time meaning. Our traditions have been modified time and time again, until they are now mostly a thing of the past. No longer is there any activity on Hallowe'en night or April the first; no more do we find Sully getting his annual bath; and "fish day" has been limited until it is now nothing more

than a lemonade party. It is these same traditions that once made boys want to come to A. & M.

If anyone has a reasonable solution to this problem let them holler it loud before it is too late to do any good at all. Out of six thousand boys surely some one can think of a solution. Certainly a big majority of the Aggies would like to see the school go on as it always has in the past and not turn out to become some school similar to Texas, Rice, or S. M. U. If a change can't be brought about sometime in the very near future we are going to wake up to find out that we have a big graveyard containing some of the best traditions that a school ever had.

As one senior put it: "I certainly am glad that I am getting out this year, and I surely do pity you guys that are going to stay in. At least I can leave with a few—but very few—memories of the good old days."

Bob Parker.

What College Students Think About Things

REPORTS Of the Student Opinion Survey of America December, 1938—January, 1940 College Life and Education Questions— Do you believe professional football will some day become more popular than college football? December, 1938, No. 2 ... 75% Should compulsory class attendance in colleges be abolished? February, 1939, No. 7 ... Yes 63.5% Should sex education in college be made compulsory? February, 1939, No. 9 ... Yes 61.9% Do you work to pay all or part of your college expenses? May, 1939, No. 21 ... Yes 47.2% Should college newspapers limit their editorial stands to campus problems, or should they discuss national and international questions also? November, 1939, No. 23 ... Campus 36.0% National 64.0% Do you believe R.O.T.C. military training—either compulsory or voluntary—should be taught in colleges and universities—or do you believe it should not be taught at all? January, 1940, No. 32 ... Men 87% Women 83% 86% Should be taught ... 87% 83% 86% Social and Economic Questions— Do you believe a blood test before marriage to detect venereal disease should be required by law? March, 1939, No. 12 ... Yes 93.1% If you had to make a choice, which would you prefer, fascism or communism? March, 1939, No. 15 ... Communism 56.4% Do you favor laws prohibiting hitch-hiking? November, 1939, No. 27 ... No 80.0% How much do you believe you will be able to earn from your first job after you leave college? January, 1940, No. 30 ... \$ 75 or less 11% 75 to 100 20% 100 to 125 38% 125 to 150 16% 150 or more 15% National and International Questions— Do you approve of President Roosevelt's plan to train an air reserve corps of 20,000 men now in college? January, 1939, No. 5 ... Yes 71.8% Generally, do you approve of Roosevelt today as President? December, 1938, No. 6 ... Yes 62.8% January, 1939, No. 6 ... Yes 65.5% February, 1939, No. 11 ... Yes 63.2% December, 1939, No. 29 ... Yes 61.9% Would you like to see Roosevelt run for third term? December, 1938, No. 6 ... Yes 27.2% January, 1939, No. 6 ... Yes 28.2% November, 1939, No. 25 ... Yes 31.8% February, 1940, No. 34 ... Yes 39.5% If Roosevelt is not a candidate in 1940, whom would you like to see elected president? May, 1939, No. 20— Paul V. McNutt ... 17.7% Thomas E. Dewey ... 15.6% November, 1939, No. 25— Thomas E. Dewey ... 33.8% Paul V. McNutt ... 11.0%

Collegiate Kaleidoscope



IF YOU'RE AN AVERAGE COLLEGE CO-ED YOU SPEND 1176 HOURS OR 49 DAYS BEFORE A MIRROR DURING YOUR 4-COLLEGE YEARS! AND IF YOU'RE AN AVERAGE COLLEGE MAN YOU NOW KNOW THE REASON FOR THOSE "LONG WAITS". THE AVERAGE CO-ED WEARS A SIZE 14 DRESS.

Musical Meanderings

SWEET 'N' SWING Morton Downey made his first records for Columbia this week, singing the Irish favorites which have made him so popular with his fans ... New bands for Columbia Recording are those of Bill Calsen and Fabian Andre. Andre, playing at the Pump Room of the Hotel Ambassador East, Chicago, used to arrange for Doug Kostelanetz and Xavier Cugat before getting his own orchestra together. His first records, novel and arresting, are "The Man Who Came to Rhumba" and "Waltz Night at the Savoy" ... Carlens is a Midwest find who has achieved wide success with his smartly-styled band ... Benny Goodman has disked that unforgettable Lehar melody "Yours Is My Heart Alone." Columbia backed it up with "Down By the Old Mill Stream" for a thrilling couplet ... Jack Teagarden feels that "Somewhere A Voice Is Calling" is the best record he's ever made—which is why Columbia releases it this week as a "Jazz Masterwork." "Red Wing" is on the reverse side, revealing some of the finest "T" tromboning in years. ... Count Basie recorded "Easy Does It" and "Louisiana" for Columbia before heading out on the road ... Billie Holiday admirers will be glad to know that she's finally waxed "Body and Soul" ... Eddie "Rochester" Anderson's Columbia disc of "My! My!" and "Let's Scuffle" is practically a "must" item in New York's Harlem district. Elaborate plans are being prepared to greet the dusky comedian when he arrives in Gotham for the premiere of "Buck Benny Rides Again" ... Ben Bernie is cracking house records at the Hotel Taft in New York and has been renewed through July 7. The Old Maestro has just recorded "Little Curly Hair" and "Tiny Old Town" for Columbia.

Movie Reviews

Perhaps trying to cash in on a little of the Civil War interest aroused by "Gone With the Wind," next Wednesday's show is nonetheless a first class feature in its own right. And the part of "THE MAN FROM DAKOTA" is played as only Wallace Beery could play it in his swaggering, swearing way. The role also gives him ample opportunity to be fatherly, boastful, thievish, egotistical, rowdy and everything else in his genuine style, all mixed with lots of good common horse sense and action. Beery is an old, experienced Union sergeant, conscious only of his own interests and stomach, who is in a Confederate prison camp with a greenhorn officer, John Howard. Together they escape from the camp and try to make their way back to their own forces, but they come across Dolores Del Rio after she has just shot a Confederate officer. A map of high strategical and military value is found on the officer, but printed in Russian, so Dolores must go with them to translate the Russian map to the Union. Wally is the only experienced scout and forger in the party, and it is up to him to guide and protect the tenderfeet until they again reach Union troops. Plenty of trouble comes up, but Wally finally forgets his own inflated interests and risks his life to get the map back to his own men. John is wounded, and the pretty little Russian girl, Dolores, of course stays with him.

Wallace Beery's swashbuckling manner, which has made him a star for thirteen years, has not deserted

him in this film, and his sarcastic answers to the questions of his tenderfoot superior are the same quick exaggerations which make any quip excellent. He tells John that Wild Bill Hickok got his reputation by claiming to know him. In "REMEMBER THE NIGHT" Fred MacMurray is a struggling young assistant to the district attorney who must prosecute Barbara Stanwyck for a jewel theft. As a very unorthodox D. A., however, he arranges for her bond so that she may go home for the Christmas holidays. They find that they both live in Indiana, so they decide to go together. To make the romance still more interesting, Barbara has to stay at Fred's house during the holidays, and to make the legal situation still more complicated, they fall in love. To forestall Fred's throwing the case for the state, Barbara confesses, promising to return to him after her short sentence. Law and love have some clever maneuvers in this film, and although its moral isn't exactly that crime doesn't pay, both law and love win.

Father Flanagan's "Boys Town" in Nebraska is making extensive plans for increasing its 4-H program during the year. In 1939 the boys had a successful baby beef club, and now plans include the extension of crafts, garden, forestry, and swine clubs.

The 1939 census showed that one out of every 20 farm youths was unable to read and write. Considerable decrease in that proportion is expected to be revealed in the census of 1940, according to agricultural economists.

The Pan-American Student Chain is sponsoring an automobile-caravan tour of Mexico this summer. "If the total quantities of food produced in this country were distributed according to need, every individual would have a fairly satisfactory diet," say two food economists of the U. S. Bureau of Home Economics.

RECENT RECORD RELEASES

Even in relatively prosperous times the less productive half of the farms in the United States produces only about a tenth of the marketed crops ... M. L. Wilson, director of the Federal Extension Service, before the American Farm Economic Association. The University of Vermont next year will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding. New York University has opened a special course on the economic and political issues of the coming presidential campaign. Norwich University was the first military collegiate institution in the United States. Rides Again". The first song is performed in a medium slow tempo and the second a little bit faster. In both cases, Dick sings a verse and two choruses interspersed with some instrumental work from the all-star band accompanying him on this recording date.

Bob Zurke, the Ole Tom-Cat of the Keys, leader of the Delto Rhythm Band, gives us a brilliant display of his scintillating piano style in the solid oldie, TEA FOR TWO. Medium swing is the tempo and Zurke's piano claims the featured spot for the majority of the record. Ensemble backing from the band and a tenor sax chorus on a par with Zurke's piano work lend the proper balance to this swell recording of an often requested tune. The companion piece, I LOVE YOU MUCH TOO MUCH, is a rhythm ballad played at slower tempo with Evelyn Poe as vocalist and Zurke as instrumental soloist. The truly magnificent orchestra Bob has developed is displayed at its very best in this Victor record.

Mitchell Ayres fashions a novelty tune and a well-remembered hit from "The French Doll" on his latest Bluebird record. THE MAN ON THE FERRY is played in medium waltz time. It is highly reminiscent of "The Man on the Flying Trapeze", both in thought and musical construction. Tommy Taylor and the boys in the band handle the extensive vocal business deftly and with aplomb. DO IT AGAIN, written several years ago by DeSylva and Gershwin, is all Mary Ann Mercer's. An intriguing tune done in a tantalizing manner by this popular vocalist, this record is bound to be a success on any coin phonograph.

Ziggy Elman and his boys carve a pair of standards for their newest contribution to the Bluebird catalog. Both tunes are taken at hustle tempo with Ziggy's trumpet strikingly exhibited. Piano solos as well as short bits on tenor and alto sax add to the interest of the recordings. I'M THROUGH WITH LOVE was written by Matt Malneck and Fud Livingston, while Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz composed SOMETHING TO REMEMBER YOU BY for the score of "Three's a Crowd".

Gray Gordon and his Tic-Toc Rhythm perform a charming new ballad and a cute novelty song on a new Victor recording. Johnny Victor sings YOU GORGEOUS DANCING DOLL, written by Morgan, Cunningham, and Schuster, while Gordon's girl vocalist is heard in THE KITTEN WITH THE BIG GREEN EYES, credited to Vann, Sharbutt, and Stanton.

Glenn Miller and Hoagy Carmichael's immortal STAR DUST comprise a popular musical team of tremendous potentiality. Thrown in for good measure, however, is a superb recording of MY MELANCHOLY BABY. STAR DUST is played at a medium slow tempo with the famous five-man sax section opening the recording. MY MELANCHOLY BABY is in a swingier vein with hot tenor sax work and a vocal chorus by Tex Beneke, together with some beautiful trombone quartet work from this outstanding section of the band.

Dick Todd, baritone, whose radio popularity seems to increase daily, is fast becoming a record attraction of primary importance. His newest disc couples a pair of extremely popular ballads. MOMENTS IN THE MOONLIGHT is a composition of Richard Himber, Irving Gordon, and Al Kaufman, while Frank Loesser and Jimmy McHugh composed MY! MY! for the Paramount film "Buck Benny

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As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN The contest for control of the Texas delegation to the Democratic National Convention will reach a climax on Saturday of this week. Saturday is the date for the meeting of precinct conventions. Delegates are chosen by the precinct conventions to county conventions, and by county conventions to the state convention. The state convention will choose delegates to the national convention. Texas has forty-six votes in the national convention, and the control of the Texas delegation is a matter of some importance.

Both Roosevelt and Garner forces are busy in the state, as each hopes to control the Texas delegation. Precinct conventions are in theory open to all residents of the precinct who are party members. In fact, however, they are seldom well advertised, and are usually attended by only a handful of those eligible to attend. This fact makes them especially susceptible to machine control.

The Ferguson campaign for the governorship was opened in Waco Saturday. The Fergusones have, as usual, an interesting platform, and there is every reason to believe that they will play an important part in the race. One amusing plank is that declaring that industry should cease to discriminate against persons over forty-five years of age. It is a plank which will attract no small number of votes, but one which will be very difficult to make effective. Mr. Ferguson is doing what he can to tie his wife's campaign for a third term to the third-term movement for Mr. Roosevelt.

Many Texans will witness war games at close hand during this week, as the Army carries on its mimic warfare. It will be a great measure of relief to know that the activity is all in fun—and that in the end the captured towns will continue to be towns and the captured rivers will continue to flow with water. The test war will doubtless be of great value to the War Department in demonstrating the strong points and weak points of various items of equipment. In a world at war preparedness is an item which no country can afford to overlook.

WHAT'S SHOWING AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL Tuesday 3:30 & 6:45—"REMEMBER THE NIGHT," starring Fred MacMurray and Barbara Stanwyck. Wednesday 3:30 & 6:45—"THE MAN FROM DAKOTA," with Wallace Beery, Dolores Del Rio, and John Howard.

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