

# The Battalion

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

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## ... And a Good Time Was Had by All

Well, another weekend is past in the history of the 1939-40 session and of the soon-to-depart class of '40. And it was one of the biggest and most successful weekends of them all.

To all those who took any part in planning, preparing, and staging the Parents' Day program, the Engineers' Day show, and the senior festivities of the weekend we extend for the corps our congratulations and thanks for a marvelous time.

To the thousands of parents and friends who visited the campus we extend the hope that you learned much about Aggieland, that you had a fine time and that you enjoyed your visit fully as much as we enjoyed having you.

## Editor's Letter to Himself

To the editor: I read your editorials. Sometimes I enjoy the style and I like those that deplore the things I hate.

But I got to thinking the other day, and I wonder what good it does to deplore Hitler or Stalin. I wonder what good it does to counsel right and just courses to politicians who are practical human beings. I wonder what good it does to urge me to do this or that, since neither you nor all the others of your readers will have much effect on the course of the world.

I think I could read your editorials with greater interest and faith if you'd tell me just what your goal is.

Alexander Pope was a trenchant critic and intellectual English poet of the Classical Age of English Literature. It was he who said:  
"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

Our poet's words come more near the universal truth today than they did in his time. There are more people today who have a little learning. And there are more people today who are supplying them with material to reason with, and that material is propaganda.

"People have enough education to be susceptible to propaganda," says Bertrand Russell, the political philosopher.

In the face of sincerity, our purpose is to try to get you to think. We are trying to get you to be skeptical. Be just as skeptical of that which appears in our news columns and of these editorials as of that which appears in other editorials, news columns, books, pamphlets, or that which you hear on the radio, in the lecture hall, on the soap box, over the desk of the big executive, or in the church pulpit.

We would not have you put too much faith in these editorials or in any other words printed or uttered by a member of the human race, until by searching after the truth, you have a conviction which stands up in most cases under the searchlight of a sincere and searching philosophy evolved by skepticism and investigation. One should respect all men's utterances, or as near to that great ideal as is humanly possible.

Whatever we counsel, we do because we believe it the right and just course. But we are not the fountainhead of wisdom. Examine other words, thoughts, and deeds, and evaluate ours in the sum-total of your findings. Then maybe you will think as we do—maybe not; but yours will be a more sure, sincere, and courageous conviction.

—The Daily Texan

## Psychology At Work

F. L. Thomasson, Los Angeles psychology instructor, was strolling down a dark street at midnight with \$200 in his pockets, when a roughly dressed man who had been following him came forward threateningly. Thomasson was certain he was going to be held up.

Heading straight for the man, the psychologist said: "Hi, buddy—can you spare a dime for a cup of coffee? I haven't eaten since..."

The would-be holdup man gave a startled exclamation. "Well, I'll be... Here I was goin' to hold you up!"

Thomasson got his dime and walked away, his bankroll saved.

Another example of applied physicoology was noted in New York City recently. Proceedings of

the City Council used to be broadcast over a local radio station, and there was a good deal of high-flown oratory which caused sessions to last two or three hours. Then it was decided to remove the radio microphones. The first meeting after their removal lasted exactly 23 minutes!

## Students Scorn 'Ghosts'

"Ghost writing," the practice of preparing themes and reports for some one else's class work, gets a thumbs-down expression of opinion from three-fourth of American college students.

What may be more surprising, however, is that the other fourth is either indifferent or openly in approval. These are the results of a poll conducted by the Student Opinion Surveys of America, collegiate sampling organization of the undergraduate press, of which The Argonaut is a member.

"What is your opinion of the practice of students paying ghost writers to prepare themes and term papers for them?" was the question presented to a scientific cross-section from coast to coast.

Disapproving were 75 per cent; indifferent were 10 per cent; approving were 15 per cent.

Significantly, it may be noted that a majority of students, 54 per cent, is the strongly-opposed class. Also, the trend of approval dwindles down to a mere 7 per cent strongly in favor.

The chief argument of those who favor ghost writing is that in effect it often helps students by giving them more time to study for more important and pressing courses.

On the other hand, the majority of those opposed condemn it as plain scholastic dishonesty.

## Time To Commence

Commencement is less than three weeks away. Within less than a month, what are now A. & M. seniors will be men of the world—competing with other men of the world for a limited number of jobs.

There won't be, so we are told, enough jobs to go around. There never have been. But the men who have applied themselves for four years at Texas A. & M. will find jobs. The men who have applied themselves are ready to commence.

Those who have taken college life as a joke, barely passing required work, are apt to find that college work and working for a living are not too remotely separated. The man who has made the most of four years at college will, very likely, make the most of anything that he may do.

For a college is more than a place to spend four years in simply learning things. Every day of college life presents an opportunity to DO something. Those seniors who have done something will probably not find it hard to commence.

Prospective employers cannot ignore the record of what the man who asks for a job has done during the past four years.

## BOOKS YOU'LL ENJOY

- AMERICAN EARTH, by Carleton Beals
- GIDDY MINDS AND FOREIGN QUARRELS by Charles A. Beard
- MAN AGAINST MICROBE, by J. W. Bigger
- JANE EYRE, by Charlotte Bronte
- HEREDITY AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, by L. L. Burlingame
- TROUBLE IN JULY, by Erskine Caldwell
- THE AMERICAN STAKES, by John Chamberlain
- BOOKS THAT CHANGED THEIR MINDS, by Malcolm Cowley
- PHILOSOPHER'S HOLIDAY, by Irwin Edman
- MY LIFE, by Havelock Ellis
- THE HOSPITAL, by Kenneth Fearing

## As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

The rise to importance of fifth-column tactics simply indicates that war has reached a new low. "Trojan horse" tactics are bad enough, but the fifth column is worse. The fifth column is made up of sympathizers who aid the enemy in every way possible. Some have come into the betrayed countries in recent years, but many have been residents of the country for many years. Traitors and spies there have always been, but not in the numbers suddenly appearing in Holland.

The fifth column did its work in Czechoslovakia and in Poland, but it remained for the leader of the fifth column in Norway to provide a name for his cohorts. Blackguard, spy, traitor, quisling. These are words of opprobrium in order of progression, and the last one is the new one.

Holland and Belgium find that many of the refugees from the Hitler Terror who they befriended last year and the year before are now aiding the invading forces in every way possible. To make the matter even worse, German residents of Holland who have lived there for as long as twenty years are joining in the attempt to overthrow the little kingdom. Many, perhaps most, of the Germans in Holland are doubtless aiding their adopted country, but the fact that some are not makes the presence of any members of this race a serious matter for Holland.

England and France are taking drastic steps to prevent fifth-column activities. England has ordered that all Germans living in the eastern half of the country be placed in concentration camps. This will doubtless be unjust to many of the Germans so arrested, but fifth-column activity being what it is, a country at war has little choice in the matter. England has also ordered that aliens other than Germans report every day to police authorities. They are not permitted to be outside their homes after nightfall, and will be subjected to numerous other restrictions. These acts are contrary to British traditions, but the British now face a condition and not a theory. They, too, have opened their doors in recent years to German refugees. They do not wish to be paid for their hospitality in the way that Holland is now being paid for hers.



R. W. Steen

## BACKWASH

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

Between the lines... Quoth an elderly woman as Sunday's review of the corps got under way, "My day will be spoiled if Reveille isn't here." ... Within a week Backwash's poll to learn the rating of the various orchestras on the campus this year will be completed and the results announced.

In order to insure accuracy and fairness in the voting, a committee has been appointed which is composed of those Aggies who have worked at the various corps dances. This committee will meet and send ballots to those cadets whom it believes have attended a representative number of corps dances and are therefore in a position to compare the several orchestras. The committee includes social secretary Charles Hamner, Everett Morehead, Jimmy Cokinos, Fred Sandlin, Bruce Cloud, Jack Nelson, Bob Little, Ed Felder, and four representatives of the corps-at-large—"Greek" Mitchell, Bill Conatser, Derae Moser, and Ray Winkel. ... It's six-two-and-even that Aggies would vote for Captain Phil Enslow for any old office he might want to run for. On two consecutive weekends that he has been in charge of so-called "tour duty," he has called the roll and immediately dismissed the offenders. Last Saturday he and Mrs. Enslow went a step further by going out of their way to drive several cadets to the central part of the campus.



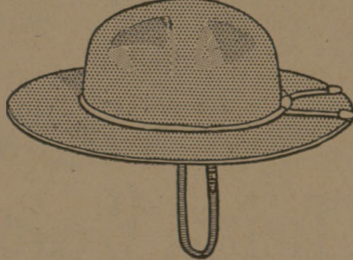
Fuermann

A fine art: From "The Texas Parade," a magazine published by the Texas Good Roads Association, comes the following item which was prominently featured in a recent issue: "Hitchhikers in general may be in disrepute in Texas, but few seasoned Texas travelers ever pass up a Cadet from Texas A. & M. College if they can find room to squeeze him in somewhere. For this there's a reason.

"One of the unwritten rules of the hitchhiking Cadets is that they never leave a motorist in trouble. If a tire needs repairing, they are the first ones out of the car and the first to grab a jack or a tire wrench. If the motor goes dead, chances are one of the boys can tinker it back to life again. If a motorist runs out of gasoline, a cadet will fetch him an emergency supply.

"The cadets of A. & M. have reduced hitchhiking to a fine art. They always are courteous and gentlemanly. On entering a vehicle each extends his hand and introduces himself. He doesn't butt into the conversation, but gives courteous and complete answers when questions or statements are directed his way. On leaving the motorist who has befriended him he hands him a card on which is written the cadet's name, the military unit to which he is attached at the school and an invitation for the motorist to come by to visit him if he ever passes through his home town."

On Russ Morgan: Songstress Carolyn Clarke broke the date-request record when she



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## Movie Review

By TOM GILLIS

As unusual as a tree in the desert is a musical with any degree of continuity in its story. Nonetheless, "BROADWAY MELODY OF 1940" is one of them. It works in the dancing stars and their rhythms in at least fairly plausible situations and gives the players some chance to act as well as dance. Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell, and young George Murphy do the tapping and rhythm following. They are well supported by Frank Morgan, Ian Hunter, and Florence Rice in their more serious acting moments. Nimble Fred Astaire has long since proved his ability in both fields, and all Eleanor Powell lacks of making him as good a partner as Ginger Rogers is some of Ginger's looks. George Murphy is no slouch as a dancer either, and he and Eleanor do some good routines.

The story which is so well incorporated with the dancing numbers concerns a night club and a case of mistaken identity. George Murphy, by mistake, gets a job as dancing partner for Eleanor, but gets so well headed about it that Fred has to take his place for several performances. Then comes love, and the new dance team is made permanent.

Cole Porter has written several of the tunes used in this musical. "I've Got My Eyes On You" is one of them, and the grand finale to the tune of "Begin the Beguine" is really outstanding. Dance routines are well performed throughout the show, and since it has a somewhat logical plot and Cole Porter's music, it rates a little better than the average musical.

The Campus is introducing something else new for their theater. Tuesdays will be bargain day with the price being 15 cents day and night. First show to be brought there under this rate is "DOWN ON THE FARM." This is also the first run on that show in these parts. It brings the fur-

seems still more important when it is realized that petroleum engineering students here are not required to join the A. I. M. E. Furthermore, only juniors and seniors are eligible for membership. It is believed that at the Colorado school the students are required to join the Institute. There are seventy-seven colleges with student chapters, making a total membership of 3456 students.

In 1896 two Norwegians actually rowed all the way across the Atlantic Ocean, from New York to France.

College men tend to marry earlier and in larger proportion than college women, according to a survey.

**WHAT'S SHOWING**  
AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
Tuesday 3:30 and 6:45—  
"HIGH SCHOOL," featuring Jane Withers and Joe Brown Jr.  
Wednesday, 3:30 and 6:45—  
"BROADWAY MELODY OF 1940," starring Fred Astaire, Eleanor Powell, George Murphy, Frank Morgan, Ian Hunter, and Florence Rice.  
AT THE CAMPUS  
Tuesday — "DOWN ON THE FARM," with Jed Prouty, Louise Fazenda, Ken Howell, Spring Byington.  
Wednesday, Thursday — "ROSE OF WASHINGTON SQUARE," starring Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, and Al Jolson.

**Pop Shaw Still Making 'Em Best!**  
**College Campus Sandwich Shop**  
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Before and after the ball visit our new "pink room". No cover charge. The perfect spot to say hello and good-bye to your best girl friend.

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