

# The Battalion

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

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## OPEN FORUM

### ABUSE OF CUFFS AND FISH STRIPES

It used to be that Junior slacks were looked up to and somewhat respected. Now, due to the growth of the college and unorganized units on and off the campus, cuffs have come to mean little. Practically anyone who has enough money to purchase slacks can do so without any interference from anyone.

Freshmen and sophomores living in the unorganized dormitories find it very desirable to wear the slacks. If this custom or regulation of the corps continues to be downtrodden, cuffs will later come to mean nothing. Action should be taken to enforce the privilege of wearing cuffs. They should be limited to those who have earned the privilege of wearing them.

The custom of wearing fish stripes has also been infringed on. It should likewise be enforced more strictly.

Students who refuse to live by the college rules are not an asset to A. & M., and necessary steps should be taken to abolish these abuses.

Sincerely,

**J. F. DENNINGTON, '42**  
**BILL ANDERSON, '42**  
**W. E. HEARN, '42**



### NO PERSONAL AFFRONT

We wish to make clear that the issues which have arisen as a result of both letters which appeared in The Battalion of Saturday, May 18, were not intended as a personal affront to anyone.

Signed:

**BILL OSWALT** **GEORGE SMITH**

### Abolish the 'Blue Law'!

Several issues back there appeared in The Battalion the editorial "Local 'Blue Law'" inveighing against the practice of the College Station constabulary force of requiring that all the recreation clubs close each night by twelve o'clock, particularly Saturday nights, and forbidding their opening for play Sunday afternoons.

Since the appearance of that editorial we have heard innumerable comments along the same vein. Local opinion as far as we can tell is nearly 100 percent favorable to the recreation clubs' being allowed to remain open for some time after midnight and Sunday afternoons.

Once again we'd like to ask the question, to which no one as yet has made answer: If it's okay for students and townspeople of this town (and other towns) to play checkers, dominos, bridge, tennis, baseball, or any other game late at night or on Sunday afternoons; to attend a Saturday night dance or Saturday midnight picture show; to hang around a beer joint all night if they so desire; or to keep open a cafe or drugstore on Sunday—then what is conceivably wrong with keeping open a recreation club for the playing of the innocent, clean, and scientific games of pool and billiards, at the same hours, for the benefit of those many students and townspeople who like the game and furthermore may not have the opportunity to enjoy them at any other time?

Mr. City Marshal, we'd like to ask this question: By whose authorization, by what city ordinance, by what law, are you enforcing this practice?

There's none we've been able to find out about. This is not in the slightest a personal issue, and we're not going out of our way to find fault with the administration of civic affairs. But we are speaking in behalf of literally hundreds of students and townspeople, against a situation that is manifestly inconsistent with prevailing opinion and practices. As we said before, this practice, or community regulation, or whatever it be, is a "blue law" and ought to be abolished immediately.

The mystery about mystery stories is how one plot can yield so many.

## As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

This is a war of speed. Motorized equipment has made possible speedier advances that were possible in earlier wars. The result is that the German forces are moving forward much faster than was the case in 1914, and other items have been speeded up to keep pace with the distance covered. Losses are probably infinitely greater than they were after one week or ten days of fighting in the first World War. Probably more airplanes have been shot down than were used in the last war. This will all result in a far greater strain on the countries involved, and due to that fact the decision should come much earlier than it did in the struggle lasting from 1914 to 1918.

In keeping with the tempo of the actual fighting, American opinion is far ahead of where it was in the first war after eight months. In that conflict America did not turn attention to preparedness until 1916, and did not begin seriously to prepare until late in that year. This time we are excited after eight months.

The great question at present is: Can the Allied line hold? There is no way to answer that at present. The Allied governments and military staffs have undergone some shuffling, and at present the German advance has been greatly slowed, but it has not been stopped. Neutral observers are more hopeful now than they were several days ago, and the task of Germany becomes constantly greater as her supply lines increase in length.

The German reserves of oil must have suffered greatly in the last ten days. Thousands of planes have been kept in the air and thousands of tanks on the move. Airplanes and tanks take plenty of gas. One of the hopes of the allies is that the drain on the German oil supply becomes so great that their mechanized forces will have to be curtailed.



R. W. Steen

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

The way of things . . . Believe it or not item of the past week concerns the two cadets in the College Hospital who wanted some hot chocolate so bad that they lowered a cuspidor in a sheet to a waiting freshman with instructions to clean the thing out and return it full of the desired beverage . . . Prof P. A. Nutter, to Taxation and Public Finance class: "Yes, both Italy and Germany have what is known as a bachelor tax—and it may be worth it at that!" . . . The newspaper-dubbed "All-American Hitch-Hiker," Aggie Keyes Carson, will soon try it again—probably late this week. This time it'll be "thumb fun" to New York City and return in four days . . . Candle light was the order of things at Hrdlicka's "Tabernacle" one night last week when the electric power fizzled. Incidentally, "No Name Jive Number Two" is by far the most oft-played selection on Ed's "juke box." . . . Backwash has its own nomination for the number one record after the recently made Aggie recordings hit the nickelodeons . . . Proving that Aggies can do just any old thing you might think of, Bill Moore, R. J. Murray, Bill Blessing, and Fred Kielman experimented with a human fly act on the side of the Y.M.C.A. last Tuesday night. Bill and Fred managed to scale the entire height of the building via the "fly route." All-American Joe Boyd, who graduated at mid-term, was on the campus this past weekend. Now working in Galveston, Joe's gravest concern was the 1940 Longhorn which labeled a picture of Joe and an escortee, "Joe and the future Mrs." Quoth he: "It hasn't happened yet!" . . . Sister school T.S.C.W. will graduate 341 on June third—about twenty of whom will shortly thereafter take up life partnerships with A. & M. graduates.



Fuermann

"Splendid—a tremendous success!" That's what "Bunny" Biggs of the sound recording studios in Dallas told John Rosser in respect to the recent recording of Aggie songs. So it's congratulations all around—to WTAW director Rosser, the concert unit of the Aggie Band, the Singing Cadets, and the Aggieband Orchestra—for the fine cooperation and work done in making the first professional recording of A. & M. songs. "The Aggieband Orchestra is the finest college dance band I have ever heard," Biggs said. He further indicated that an attempt would probably be made to make another recording of the Aggieband with the hope that Columbia would buy it for commercial distribution. Your correspondent heard the "second dub" from the master and it's no exaggeration to say that the recording is really

sell-out stuff and definitely on the up-and-up side. One side of the record features the Band and the Glee Club doing "The Aggie War Hymn" and "The Spirit of Aggieland." The disc is backed with Aggieband's playing of "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie." The commercial pressings will be on sale within two weeks to the general public and will go on sale first here at the college.

If it ever comes to court? The old controversy between the cadet corps and the Thornton W. Allen Music Company (who "owns" the "Aggie War Hymn") almost flared anew again when it was thought that there might be some difficulty securing permission to record the song. As it turned out, however, arrangements have been satisfactorily completed and the publishing company will receive the usual ASCAP fee of two cents a record. However, the fact still remains that the occasion MAY arise when Allen may be a fly in Aggie soup. Composer "Pinky" Wilson sold the song two years ago for a reportedly low figure. But the question that might some day be asked is, did Wilson have the right to sell the song? True enough, he wrote it—but by the time he sold it Aggie had taken it to their hearts and made it their own. Certainly he had the right to sell publishing rights—but it does not appear to your correspondent that he could morally sell performing rights. The song was the corps' before Wilson sold it, and Backwash believes that if this ever comes to court the ruling will be in favor of the Aggies where performing rights are concerned—both on the basis of common law and public policy.

Bob Murray's hobby: To Bob, raising fighting cocks is more than a hobby—it's a business. The only Aggie writer knows of who raises these birds, he has almost 500 of them on his farm located near Pineland. Some of the stories he tells about cock fighting are thrillers of the first water. The best of them center around a place known as the Groves—about three miles from Orange across the Texas line in Louisiana. The betting runs high on these fights and if a patron wins \$5,000 or more he is escorted back to his hotel with an armed guard supplied with the compliments of the Groves. Owners must pay \$50 to fight a bird and spectators chip in \$2.25 a head to watch the events. Fighting cocks, like boxers, get intensive training before they engage in actual combat which is a fight-to-death affair. The verb "to run" isn't in their vocabulary and there's plenty of action in any cock fight.

On Jack Littlejohn: The Aggie maestro is usually good for a news item, but this time he comes through with a sack full. To begin with, efforts are now under way to get the Aggieband Orchestra on the Fitch "Summer Band Wagon" and the prospects are more than fair. Jack, incidentally, may have a new tune ready for publication in a few weeks. The theme hit him in class last week and he has titled it, "It's Written All Over Your Face." A little-known fact about the orchestra is its theme song. It's named "Living My Life" and is another ace-high Littlejohn number.

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## Movie Review

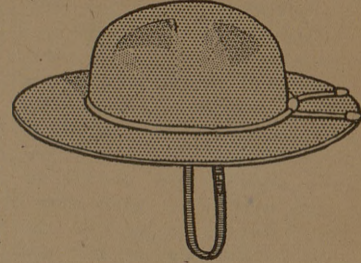
By TOM GILLIS

Ernst Lubitsch, director of "Ni notchka," has turned out another romantic comedy-drama which contains his master touch with human emotions. It is "THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER." Lubitsch has ample opportunity to display his touch when working with wistful Margaret Sullivan, the low voiced star of "Three Comrades" and "Next Time We Love." James Stewart is her bashful, timid swain. Frank Morgan is an excellent proprietor of the old novelty shop which gives the show its name. The whole cast is just one big happy family, the employees of the Budapest firm owned by Morgan.

James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan mix pleasure with business, but each is in love with an unknown party with whom he is corresponding. Through their letters they appoint a rendezvous to make their presence known to each other, each having now fallen in love with the unknown lover. They both keep the

You've heard it at the beginning and ending of all Aggieband-played dances.

Backwash would like to make a motion—that the orchestra and the equally capable Singing Cadets get together on the production of a special glee club arrangement of the popular "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie" that Jack has made. A very effective arrangement, it is considerably like the Fred Waring arrangements of various college songs and is impressive to hear.



### FREE!!

Your hat will be stored absolutely free during the Summer months if you have it cleaned and blocked. So why go to the trouble of carrying it around in your trunk when you can store it where it will be free from dust and moths.

Cleaning & Blocking \$1.00 Pay Next Fall  
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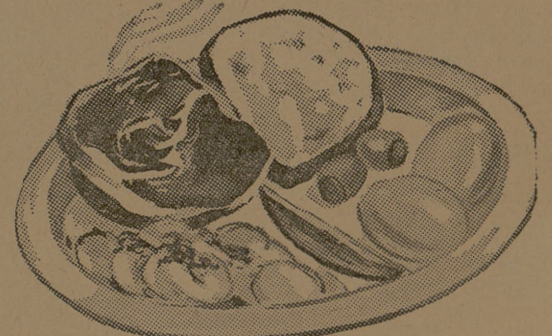
### WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE CAMPUS  
Tuesday — "TIME OUT FOR MURDER," with Michael Whalen and Gloria Stewart.

Wednesday, Thursday — "GATEWAY," featuring Arleen Whalen, Don Ameche, Binnie Barnes, and Lyle Talbot.

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
Tuesday 3:30 & 6:45 — "WHAT A LIFE," with Jackie Cooper, Betty Field, Lionel Stander.

Wednesday 3:30 & 6:45 — "THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER," starring Margaret Sullivan, James Stewart, Frank Morgan, and William Tracy.



### THE DELUXE CAFE

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### THE BEST IN BRYAN

COOL... COMFORT

IN THE SUIT THAT'S Refrigerated by Nature  
**PRIESTLEY'S NOR-EAST**  
THE ARISTOCRAT OF SUMMER FABRICS

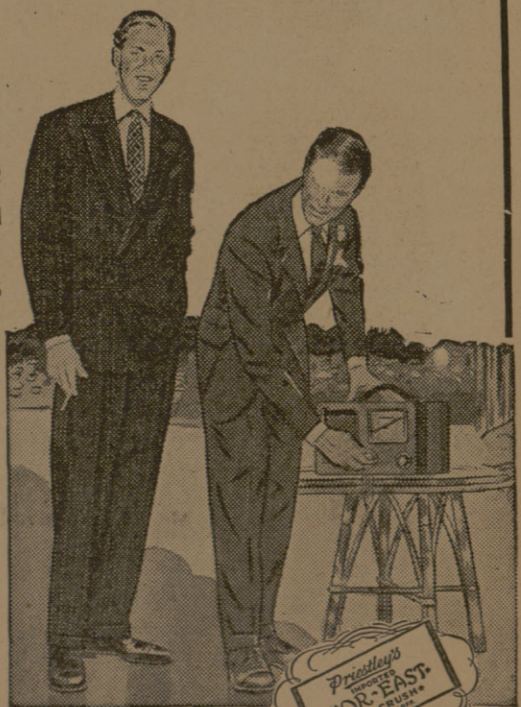
There are many "thin" suits and many "light" suits—but there's only one suit that is "refrigerated by nature," Priestley's NOR-EAST! It's cool as a frosted drink!

Only Priestley of England knows the secret of weaving this blend of Angora mohair and Australian worsted; only America's foremost maker of summer clothes is entrusted with its tailoring!

New patterns—in light and dark shades.

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