

Last Words

BY BILL MURRAY
Battalion Editor-in-Chief

This issue of The Battalion marks the ending of the school year and the last issue of the thirty-ninth volume of The Battalion, which it has been my privilege and great pleasure to edit.

Since this is the last article I will write for The Battalion, I feel I should write something of great importance, something which would aid those who will take over the paper next term, something which would be a help to the entire student body. But I'm not up to it. Just like all seniors, I'm too 'jittery' at reaching the end of the four-year trail to graduation.

I would, however, like to say a few things. First of all, I would like to thank the student body for having given me the opportunity to edit its newspaper. I hope very few have been disappointed with it.

Next, I would like to thank this year's staff, which has been entirely loyal, quite willing to work, and profoundly interested in making The Battalion more modern in makeup, style, and content.

In here also should go the thanks of the staff and the student body to the merchants whose generous support has made the transformation of The Battalion from a semi-weekly into a tri-weekly newspaper this year possible. For many years The Battalion has been the only way of reaching the entire student body with advertising. Its circulation this year has included not only students but the entire faculty and college employees, and many readers over the state.

The faculty of A. & M. has been cooperative in every respect, and my personal thanks as well as those of the entire staff are due to it. The Battalion is one of very few college papers which are entirely uncensored. There has been no censorship this year or in any other year. I hope next year's staff and the ones which follow will appreciate this fact and conduct the paper so there will never be need for censorship.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to E. L. Angell, manager of student publications, who has, without exercising any censorship, aided me greatly in keeping The Battalion's editorial policy clear and as unprejudiced as possible.

I also offer my thanks to the A. & M. Press for the aid its men have given me this year.

The Student Publications Board has done a great deal to aid in building tradition on The Battalion, a factor which used to be sadly lacking. The men on that body have proved beyond a doubt that they are vitally interested in seeing publications here progress.

This is the end of the four happiest years of my life. At Texas A. & M. I have found the best school for boys and the best all-around group of boys anywhere. The privilege of serving them as Battalion editor has made this year the fullest and happiest year of my life to date.

I have enjoyed putting out your paper and I appreciate the honor of being your editor more than anything that's ever happened to me. Good luck, and

THIRTY

Swan Song

With this issue, The Battalion concludes publication for the 1939-40 school year. With this issue the editor officially severs relations with a staff of fine editors, advisers and reporters.

For the past semester, those names appearing on our masthead have been entrusted with the responsibility of publishing your newspaper. We have honestly enjoyed every minute of our experience of sketching your campus world and it has been with the aim in mind of favoring no person or group, rather the news; of maintaining a neutral stand in all things which we did not feel a perfect moral freedom in condemning or praising; and finally, of publishing a paper which appealed alike to administration and student body.

Publishing a tri-weekly college newspaper is a task, a responsibility and oftentimes a worry. Situations and difficulties arise and must be met. To the best

The Battalion

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

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published three times weekly from September to June, issued Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; and is published weekly from June through August.

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of our ability such situations and difficulties were solved.

Without the aid and assistance of many persons on this campus, The Battalion would not have been readable and newsy as it was during the past school year. We have enjoyed splendid cooperation from the student body, from the various organizations, and from the administration. For this we are grateful, and without it whatever success we have achieved would have been impossible. We only hope that the 1940-41 staff enjoys this same cooperation.

If we have given you a paper you enjoyed reading and one which you felt was a constructive record of your college year, then we may retire in favor of our successors with the feeling that our work has been a success. If we have any regrets, they are only that we could not serve you better.

Would Alumni Fund Solve the Problem?

Below we reprint an editorial from The Texas Aggie, Former Students newspaper, which should be of interest to the student body, particularly graduating seniors.

A major problem facing ex-student or alumni associations, is that of membership. The Association of Former Students of A. & M. is no exception.

The alumni organization of A. & M. will rank in the top 15 such organizations of the United States. That is a splendid record but not one with which A. & M. men should be satisfied.

At the suggestion of Association President C. P. Dodson, who has given this matter considerable study, the "Aggie" presents a plan used successfully by many fine alumni associations. The plan is known roughly as the Alumni Fund Plan.

Briefly this plan replaces dues with gifts. Any gift from \$1 up makes its donor a member of the alumni association. In its most successful application the drive for gifts is made through representatives of each class, through local clubs, and through directors and officers of the Association.

From such gifts the budget of the alumni association is raised. If any surplus remains, it is given to the Association's alma mater in some acceptable form of gift.

Among the advantages cited for the Alumna Fund Plan is that it permits association membership for the man unable to give more. The obvious danger of the plan to the A. & M. Association is that all donors might simply give \$1 in which case the Association would quickly become insolvent.

The plan offers some possibility of greatly increasing the active membership of the association by securing gifts from many men who at present may not be Association members because they do not feel able to pay the \$5 annual dues.

The "Aggie" very briefly outlines this idea in the hope of receiving the reactions of its readers to the plan. An Alumni Fund would ask every A. & M. man to make a gift of whatever amount he felt he could afford. Would such a plan increase or decrease the income of the Association from its members? Would such a plan meet with the approval of A. & M. men? What do you think? Officers of the organization would appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

Families . . . people of entire towns . . . massed populations of countries . . . plod disillusioned over Europe today, leaving the smoldering ruins of homeland, facing a future of despair. We, in the security of our homes, our jobs, can help. Your local Red Cross will accept your contributions now to help lessen the suffering of these people.

As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

National defense has assumed a country-wide interest. The activities of the "fifth column" in the recently occupied countries of Germany have aroused the American people to seriousness in dealing with similar tactics in this country. U. S. Attorney-General R. H. Jackson has asked local organizations to report to the local F. B. I. office any evidences of sabotage, espionage or other subversive activities. The Department of Justice has taken over the immigration and naturalization service. Suspected foreigners and aliens will be watched by the F. B. I. agents.

President Roosevelt has appointed a national defense council of seven, representing various industrial groups, labor and education. Governor O'Daniel of this state has also appointed a national defense committee of ten, one of whom is President T. O. Walton of this college. The representatives of eight Gulf cities—Baytown, Beaumont, Galveston, Goose Creek, Houston, La Porte, Port Arthur, and Texas City, met at Galveston last Monday and organized "The Southwest National Defense Conference". The chief aim of this conference was to organize that section of Texas for the coming armament program of the United States. The conference adopted a resolution to support the administration defense program aggressively.

This quick response in an emergency is a characteristic of the American. And it is hoped that our public men will not abuse the trust which the people have placed in them. Party politics are already at work to delay the execution of the President's program of national defense. Profit seekers are lukewarm to the President's appeal for sacrifices. Our congressmen are clamoring for an early adjournment of Congress so that the party conventions and campaigns would be carried out as scheduled. Politics should not be a factor in a national emergency. We must be prepared for a twenty-billion-dollar armament program if we are to defend this continent. No money can buy our independence and our way of life. We must be ready for the ultimate sacrifices. Our policy in this emergency should be "Pay as you prepare for war", and not "pay as you fight".

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

It can be done:

As Backwash goes to press for the last time of the great 1939-'40 long session, the column takes time out for the parting word to A. & M.'s football players on behalf of the "Twelfth Man."

Sports writers and commentators from coast to coast have said that you can't win the national championship in 1940. Public opinion says you can't do it. Even tradition says that a team can't repeat as champion of the rock-lined Southwest Conference. On every hand the word is "can't." But you can!



Fuermann

You were a team without a peer last season . . . The best in the nation by any measure. The victorious season of 1939 was a welcome present to ex-students throughout the world, and it resulted in untold renown for Texas A. & M. College, its mighty football machine, its coaches, its band, the yelling section—the Twelfth Man, and for those intangible traditions that we Aggies know so well. From Timbuctoo to Kalamazoo, Americans know that Aggies stand and yell throughout all games. They know, too, that every member of the squad is greeted by his teammates when he leaves the field—no matter whether his efforts have produced a touchdown or put the team "in a hole."

But that's all history . . . You football players know how you did it . . . The question is—can you do it again? The Twelfth Man believes that you can, and although none of us Aggies possesses the wisdom of Socrates, the fact is evident that the pressure is on you to do so—and especially to destroy a tradition next November 23 in the annual "Teasipper" battle which will be fought this year in Austin.

For you to repeat as Southwest Conference champions would be more than just winning another championship—it would be a great thing for your college, for the thousands of ex-Aggies, for the student body, for the faculty, for the coaches, for the state, but most of all—for you, and especially for those twenty-odd football men who will be ending their careers as Aggies next June.

Another A. & M. championship team would not be made up of just the eleven men who start the game . . . Or the eleven men who finish the game. It would include these, of course, but the substitutes who ride the bench, the members of the traveling squad, the "Blue Boys" who stay at home, the ineligible, the transfers, and the freshmen squad that takes a lot of hard head-knocking—they'll ALL be members of that great team. They'll ALL share equally in the honors.

You haven't got anything to worry about, though, if the same spirit prevails next year as was evident throughout the 1939 season. There was a will to win, but there was more to it than just that. There was a spirit of working together; a desire to cooperate with the coaches; a spirit which said "play these games one at a time"—it was a healthy spirit, the kind that makes champions.

With the same spirit in mind, here's what the Twelfth Man hopes you do during the coming three months:

1. Stay in condition this summer.
2. Forget football until Labor Day—then hit the highway for College Station.
3. Arrive here in the best physical condition that you have ever attained.
4. Return to college with a determination to work hard, stand the gaff, and cooperate.

As far as the Twelfth Man is concerned, you don't have to be champions of anything to be the nation's number one football team. Win or lose, the Aggie Spirit will still be staunch behind you. Head yell-leader Buster Keeton put it well when he said, "If yelling can win a national championship, we've got it in the bag for 1940."

But the point is . . . The Twelfth Man believes that you can repeat. The Twelfth Man believes that there is no such word as "can't" where you are concerned.

It can be done . . . The Twelfth Man believes that it WILL be done!

So it's "30" and finis for Backwash this season. The column has tried to do a great many things this past college year, but most of all it has tried to be a mirror of Aggie thought and a column definitely written according to the Aggie way of things. Saying "goodbyes" is hard to do and almost trite, but at least one is well in order. To the senior class of 1940 goes a sincere and hearty wish from the entire corps for the best of everything always. This year's graduating class is probably the greatest in the history of the college—and its successes give foundation to the contention.

Here's best wishes for a pleasant summer to you all, and it's back to Aggieland next September ready to do our "all" in backing up the national football champions of 1940—Texas A. & M. College.

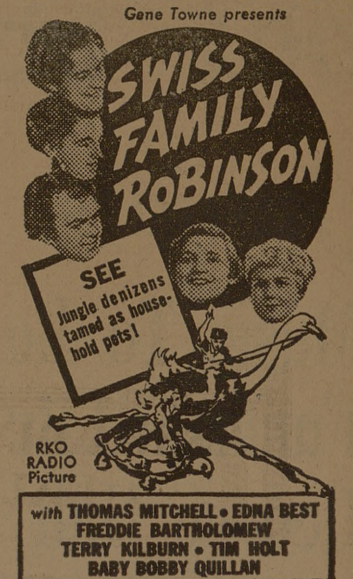
Miss Peggy Campbell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Campbell of College Station will graduate from the University of Texas with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts on June 3.

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A gala send-off dinner was given by the members of the Animal Husbandry Department last week in honor of Professor A. K. Mackey of that department who is leaving his position at A. & M. to become Secretary of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association at San Angelo.

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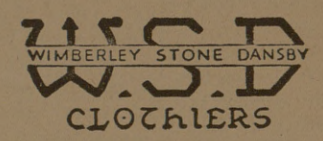
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THANKS AGGIES!

W. S. D. Clothiers want to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous patronage you have given us during this college year.

Here's hoping each of you enjoy a most pleasant vacation this summer.

Again we say—THANKS AGGIES!



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