

# The Battalion

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

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ing, "Its educational function is the essential reason for a university's existence. It is true that not having football any more will make autumn duller for a few people. But even those few were not able to become very enthusiastic about the games."  
—Associated Collegiate Press.

## OPEN FORUM

This being a military school it seems as though the majority of the Cadets would know when to salute the National Anthem. But this was not so when The Star Spangled Banner was played by the visiting high school bands at the football game last Saturday. Over 90% of the Cadets stood at attention but removed their hats instead of rendering the salute. This gave a bad impression of the school as a whole because many comments were heard from visitors.

The blame cannot be placed on any one person or department but the next time a situation like that arises remember that "when in doubt salute."  
—L. B. Tomlinson, '43

## Something To Read

By DR. T. F. MAYO  
A Handful of the Latest and Best

The most reasonable "Utopia" story that I ever read is Granville Hicks' "The First to Awaken". The American hero is put to sleep in 1940 in such a manner as to wake up in 2040. We are then shown all the inner workings as well as the visible face of the world that (Mr. Hicks thinks) will exist just a century from now. Socialism has by this time solved all economic problems, but in the process socialism has become something very different from what we know by that name. Great cities are definitely on the way out. Decentralization, both economic and cultural, is very much the order of the day. Surprisingly enough, sexual relations and the family in general are represented as having changed very little in a hundred years, except for the abolition of a few absurdities, abuses, and intolerances.

As Oscar Wilde remarked many years ago, no map of the world is complete which does not locate Utopia. It is beneficial as well as entertaining, it seems to me, to sit down once in a while with an intelligent author, and clarify your views as to just what sort of world you would like for yours to grow into. You will find that your differences of opinion with Mr. Hicks are fully as stimulating as your agreements with him.

The most lively piece of biography that you will have a chance at this year is probably Zinsser's "As I Remember Him". It is, as a matter of fact, this good biologist's own life story, though he pretends to be writing about one "R.S." It is full of good bits, not only about medicine, bacteriological research, and science in general, but about colleges, women, politics, and what not.

William Faulkner has produced another novel, not quite so grim as the terrific "Sanctuary," but tough-minded enough, in all conscience. "The Hamlet," his latest, is (as usual) a story of poor whites in Mississippi. It contains more humor than anything else that Faulkner has yet written. It's master stroke, however, is its picture of the Snopes family, who emerges from the clay hills and slimly oozes their way into wealth and local power. You'll probably find that you know them already.

## As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

The chances for a revolution in the totalitarian states are fast diminishing despite the fact that some people still hope for such development. The present day means of mass domination, the highly mechanized equipment, and the fifth columnists in the occupied countries make revolution a very risky undertaking. A machine gun mounted on a tank can easily keep at bay an unorganized mob on the streets or the public square, and a squadron of loyal airplanes can quickly force a revolting city into submission. Revolution, either at home or in the occupied countries appears at present a remote possibility. The only chance for a revolt in the totalitarian countries is a series of military reverses or a widespread revolt within the ranks of their armed forces. No dictator has ever survived a lost war, and no dictator can ever remain in power when his chief support—the army—disobeys him.

Our good will relations with Latin America are steadily growing better. Leopold Stokowski has returned with his All-American Youth orchestra from Latin America. He reports that the orchestra was received enthusiastically in the cities where it gave concerts. The orchestra gave four concerts at Rio de Janeiro and two at Sao Paulo, Brazil; eight at Buenos Aires and two at Rosario, Argentina; three at Montevideo, Uruguay; one at Port of Spain, Trinidad, and one at Dominica. Many of the programs were broadcasted and recordings were made of about 300 pieces of Latin American music.

The chiefs of staff of the twenty one Latin American countries are now on an inspection tour of our defenses as guests of our government. They are to visit places of interest throughout the United States with the view of improving the defenses of their respective countries. Contacts of this sort should go far to promote good will between our country and Latin America.

Mr. William B. Knudsen, chairman of the National Defense Commission, told the American Legion last week at Boston, Massachusetts that our national defense program was making rapid progress regardless of the press criticism to the contrary. He pointed out that manufacturers, large and small, were doing everything possible to expedite the defense program. Some difficulties have arisen in the manufacturing of airplanes, tanks, field guns, machine guns and powder but these difficulties are chiefly due to lack of plant facilities rather than to lack of cooperation. There is a scarcity of toolmakers but measures have been taken to train these mechanics. After all, we are not at war, and a rearmament program can not be carried out "in a jiffy" in a democracy.



"Gee, you must have a tough time draggin' yours around!"

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Backwashin' around . . . From Blankets: Bill Woolford is telling one of the best stories of the current college year in respect to the trials and tribulations of a "fish" sergeant." It concerns a Field Artillery freshman who had been carefully instructed to remove all blankets from upperclassmen's beds unless "Blankets" was blown by the bugler immediately preceding Taps. Not yet included in a bugler's repertoire, "Blankets" failed to make its appearance. Cursing the bugler's ignorance, but conscientious to the last, the poor freshman got out of bed, walked from room to room, and—after a dozen vigorous arguments—removed all blankets from the erring upperclassmen's shivering bodies.

History Repeats Itself. The A. & M.-Tulsa U. fracas Saturday won't be the first time that the Aggies have played in San Antonio. It all got started back in 1899 when Texas U. defeated the cadets 6 to 0; a year later Texas spanked A. & M. 17 to 0, and the following year the two colleges played a scoreless tie in San Antonio. In 1917 the Aggies won their first game in the Alamo City, defeating L. S. U. 27 to 0. The last time the Aggies played in San Antonio was in December, 1934. Michigan State's Spartans walked off with that one 26 to 13.

Touch, and Touch Again. The recent registration brings to mind the true story of the out-of-state freshman who enrolled at A. & M. a year ago. Digging for a little extra money, the boy wrote his father that he had enlisted in the Cavalry and needed \$125 to buy a horse. The gullible father sent the money and two weeks later received another letter asking for \$10 a week ration money for the animal—which was regularly sent throughout the year. Our hero was put on his mettle, however, when he received a letter during the last week of the college year in which his father asked how he intended to get the horse home. The way out was a masterpiece—an obituary explaining that the horse had stuck his foot in a chuck hole, broke his leg, and as a result, was killed. The letter contained a postscript which read, "By the way, I'll need \$15 to bury the thing!"

Dr. Anna Augusta von Helmholtz Phelan of the University of Minnesota English department is an authority on cats.

Frank Taylor, captain of the Vermont University grid squad, had to skip practice the other day because he had a date to get married.

Aggietone News. Watch for the first showing of A. & M.'s own newsreel. Originally announced in The Battalion and the state press as October 9, the opening date will probably be delayed until the 15th.

Those who have been taken behind the scenes in the production of the first newsreel have been enthusiastic about the idea and its success seems assured.

Not included in most news stories concerning Aggietone News was the name of the financier. He's Ben S. Ferguson, Dallas and College Station theater man. Thus far the venture has cost more than \$1,000. The film will be given to the college following each commercial showing and tentative plans include the showing of the every-other-week newsreel in surrounding communities. It will also be made available to the major newsreel organizations with the hope that portions of Aggietone News will occasionally be "lifted" for national distribution.

A purposely limited staff has done a thus far outstanding job in producing Aggietone News. Staff members include Ira F. Lewis, Graham Purcell, George Mueller, E. A. (Buster) Keeton, H. O. (Hub) Johnson, Roland Loney, Pete H. Tomlinson, Sid Lord, Bob Myers, M. K. Soderquist, and Jack Holliman.

## Movie Review

By Tom Gillis

Anyone can tell that when Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy get together that the result is going to be a musical in some strange setting, almost any setting by Broadway. "NEW MOON" is no exception. This time the story goes from Paris to New Orleans to an island. The time is immediately before the French revolution in 1780. This mixture allows for some lavish props and a variety of backgrounds for the notes of these two singers.

Nelson Eddy has the part of a French political prisoner being sent to New Orleans and sold as a slave. On the same ship is Jeanette MacDonald. They meet and the usual embarrassing situations result when a man falls for a woman above his social level. Before their social level is equalized, the tale goes through New Orleans, mutiny, escape, storm, and a grand scale version of Swiss Family Robinson wrecked on an island.

This winding story is not without its liberal sprinkling of semi-classical and popular songs, sung in solos, duets, and choruses. The most well known are "Love Come Back to Me" and "Stout Hearted Men." Anyone going to this feature knows exactly what he is getting into, and if you like their brand of music, this is your show.

"THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES," reviewed in the Tuesday issue, is still at The Campus. There is no humor or music in this feature but excellent work by the director and a plot based on a New England folktale combine to make it fine entertainment.

### WHAT'S SHOWING

**AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL**  
Thursday 3:30 & 6:45—  
"NEW MOON," starring Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald, Mary Boland, George Zucco, and Grant Mitchell.

**AT THE CAMPUS**  
Thursday—"THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES," featuring George Sanders, Margaret Lindsay, Vincent Price, Nan Grey, and Dick Foran.  
Friday, Saturday—"LEGION OF LOST FLYERS," with Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, and Ann Nagel.

**When in Doubt About Your Eyes or Glasses—**  
Consult  
**DR. J. W. PAYNE**  
Optometrist  
Masonic Bldg. - Bryan

## A Good Reception

TOWN HALL opens its season tonight in Guion Hall presenting the Marine Band. This band is playing a tour throughout the nation giving performances at many schools and quite a few in Texas. Let's give Captain Santelmann, their director, a reception he will remember above that of all the other schools. Let's give him a good reception.

By good reception we mean good in several ways. Large attendance and loud applause are the first essentials of a good reception, but there are other factors to consider.

Whistling and shouting do not at any time make a very favorable impression on any performer, unless he is a yell-leader. Captain Santelmann will not be acting in the capacity of yell-leader; he is a band director.

The Marine Band has played many times before assemblies of soldiers, and they, like we, have a tendency toward "cutting up." If we cut up at their performance, their comment will undoubtedly be, "Soldiers are all just alike." We aren't like soldiers; we are training to be officers, so let's act like officers.

There is supposed to be a law against smoking in Guion Hall. Certainly it has not been enforced in the past, but certainly it should in the future. The ventilating system does not seem to clear the smoke as fast as it is created, and as a consequence, the place looks like the inside of a volcano in little or no time. The worst example of this smoke was last year at the performance given by Gladys Swarthout. Cigarette smoke was so thick she developed a sore throat after the program. Would it be asking too much to request that we do without smoking for two hours in order that the performers can give a better program, and that we may see more of the performers?

A good reception also includes absolute silence at certain times. When the director brings his baton into the air to begin a number, he should not have to wait for the audience to become quiet before he starts. They should be quiet because they are a good audience. Also when the piece is finished, wait just a moment to make doubly sure they are completely through with the number before applauding. Nothing is more disconcerting or confusing to a performer than to have the audience clap when he reaches a pause in the music. Usually the ones who applauded feel just as silly.

When we go to Town Hall tonight, let's be a good audience and give Director Santelmann a good reception!

## Football

ECHOING ANEW at scores of colleges as the 1940 football season gets under way is the white-hot pro and con argument about football: Is the University of Chicago on the right track in sharply de-emphasizing the sport, or should football as a big business be given even further impetus?

Scores of college editors have spoken out on the subject last term and this. Many are convinced Chicago's President Robert M. Hutchins has courageously struck out against a national evil. Many, but not all.

At the University of Illinois, the Daily Illini expressed opinion that "When President Hutchins told the world that subsidization of athletics was a prerequisite to gridiron glory, he crawled far out on a limb. The Illinois boys still win football games in the toughest league in the nation, and they seem to do it without the aid of the subsidies which President Hutchins implied they received."

The Purdue Exponent, while "admitting some faults and commercialization in football," declared it has "no desire that Purdue should ever 'follow' Chicago. Football contributes a certain 'something' to college life which we would not want thrown into discard."

Likewise, it is the opinion of the Washington and Jefferson Red and Black, that "collegiate football is of definite benefit to the colleges, to students, and to numerous other interests alike. If, as Dr. Hutchins alleges, football is a major handicap to education, the Red and Black feel that the American system of higher learning needs more such handicaps."

Contrasted with these opinions are those of several college publications that believe steps must be taken to curb commercialism. Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Tech declares "the situation is so flagrantly non-amateur in both spirit and practice that the only logical thing to do is to abandon amateur intercollegiate football and declare it frankly as the professional occupation it is."

The Rice Thresher agrees that "in subsidization we are defeating the whole purpose for the existence of football on our campus, a game of recreation for the students."

The Michigan Daily feels "it is just as well that Chicago saw fit to retire."  
And at Chicago, the Daily Maroon itself expresses satisfaction with the Hutchins arrangement, say-



V. K. Sugareff

**CAMPUS**  
15¢ to 5 p. m. - 20¢ After

**THURS. - LAST DAY**

**"The House of Seven Gables"**  
with Margaret Lindsay  
Nan Gray - Vincent Price

Also  
**SPORT REEL - ACT**

**FRI. and SAT.**

**"Legion of Lost Flyers"**  
with  
Richard Arlen  
Andy Devine  
**DISNEY CARTOON**

**SPORT REEL**  
**LATE NEWS**

**Coming Soon!**

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North Gate Joe Sosolik

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Though it spreads across the entire nation, the Bell Telephone System is simple in structure. You can think of it as a tree.

**BRANCHES**  
The 24 associated operating companies . . . which provide telephone service in their respective territories.

**TRUNK**  
The American Telephone and Telegraph Company . . . which coordinates system activities, advises on telephone operation and searches for improved methods.

**ROOTS**  
Bell Telephone Laboratories . . . whose functions are scientific research and development; Western Electric . . . manufacturer and distributor for the system; Long Lines Department of A.T.&T. . . which interconnects the operating companies and handles Long Distance and overseas telephone service.

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