

The Battalion

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

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The New Point System

The recently adopted point system—which limits the number of activities A. & M. students may participate in—is the answer to a long-needed regulation coming from the student body as well as from the faculty—the faculty passed on the ruling after it was recommended by a student committee.

There's nothing new about the system—American educational circles have been advocating it for more than twenty years, and many other American colleges and universities have similar rulings. Any institution, when it becomes as large as Texas A. & M. has become, has a definite need for this sort of regulation.

One fact about this ruling that is frequently misunderstood is its underlying purpose. It isn't intended as a method of honoring students—it's a limitation, pure and simple.

In too many instances it is true that the burden of student government falls on the shoulders of a few. Under the new point system this will be impossible. True enough, the weights given the various student executive positions may not be as accurate or fair as possible at the present time, but only experience and time can indicate this and the weights will be changed if it is found that any of them are out of proportion.

OPEN FORUM

Now that this institution has an enrollment numbering close to 7,000 and has almost adequate housing facilities, it seems to me that some further progressive changes are now in order. I believe I speak for the majority of the boys when I suggest that steps be taken to change the regulations governing the allowable wattage in each dormitory room.

When will the military department get with us? I am sure that everyone who has made an effort to comply with the Blue Book and has tried to study with a 75 watt lamp in his I.E.S. lamp has discovered that 75 watts is decidedly not enough if he is to keep his vision unimpaired. Consequently, everyone keeps a 75 watt globe in the dresser drawer for an "inspection light" and only puts it into active service when he hears an inspection is in the wind.

Now possibly the situation is not as bad as I represent it; however, it is certainly inconvenient and I know I for one am damn tired of changing globes two or three times a week to keep off the bull ring. As long as this situation is admitted to exist, I can't see any logical reason why some constructive changes in the regulations can't be made. How about it?

Gene Copeland, Inf. Band

Probably all of you have heard by this time about the results of the first test case of the year here at A. & M. It concerns the removal from the college of four C.W.S. sophomores. To the fellows of the company this is a great loss for these boys have shown themselves to us as being pretty swell all around fellows. They have been honest and respectful and have taken their share of the usual work as fish and sophomore up to this time and we can't help but admire them for this. You can imagine the loss that you would feel if your organization should happen to lose four such men. We feel that the case was not given enough consideration or that there has been a mistake made somewhere.

It happened last week that we had a wild eyed sort of fellow from Kansas City move in the company as a freshman. He was told what would be expected of him as a fish and was given a chance to adapt himself along with the rest. He didn't desire to take things as the rest of the fish so he turned squealer and left a note with the college to the effect that four of the sophomores had made it impossible for him to remain at the college any longer. We know that he was treated the same as the rest of the campus fish and given the same opportunities. One sophomore was charged with duck-waddling, one with holding up the wall, and another with knee bends. These sophomores have been found guilty of a thing that the rest of the campus sophomores are guilty of and what all of us were guilty of as sophomores at one time so why should these four be denied the right to go to this college or any other college when they are no more guilty than the rest? The squealer could have put eight or ten or fifteen names on his note and the same number of confessions would have been received as were from the four. We wish that there was some way that the case could be reconsidered.

F. R. Lewis, '41
G. T. Japhet, '41
J. E. Cottle, '41
Walter Pou, '41
Delbert Whitaker, '41
R. M. Davis, '41
N. A. Ponthieux, '41
H. P. Flynn, '42

Something To Read

BY DR. T. F. MAYO
A Word for the Old Books

I should like to see the Aggies read a few more OLD books—read them for pleasure, I mean.

There are so many things that direct our attention to "the latest books" that one is likely to overlook all the rest. There are at least two considerations which apply here: (1) It is only the old books which have proven that they really have something fundamentally and permanently interesting in them, (2) most of the suggestions to read "the latest books" come, directly or indirectly, from people who hope to make money out of them.

Suppose you like novels: Have you read Tolstol's "War and Peace"? I know of only two or three "modern" novels which can hold the attention as thoroughly and as long as this tale of the wars of Napoleon, told from the Russian point of view. Or what about "Joseph Andrews", which Fielding began as a satire on Richardson's sentimental story about a virtuous servant girl? Fielding made the other story ridiculous by writing about a virtuous servant boy, but Parson Adams, the fighting parson, ran away with the book, incidentally making a grand yarn of it.

As for entertaining biography, one of the most popular types of "latest book", have you tried Plutarch's Lives, a series of short life stories of famous Greeks and Romans, told by a Greek who lived under Roman dominion, and full of good yarns which Plutarch picked up from people who had known the heroes personally? It is far more entertaining than all but three or four "modern" biographies that I know of.

Plays represent perhaps the most striking superiority of the old fellows over the writers of our own day. No "modern" has written any such gay and witty comedy as Congreve's "The Way of the World", in which a cagy man of the world and a "fatal woman" fall in love and fight it out. Sheridan's "The School for Scandal" is more amusing than anything Broadway has seen for these many moons. And don't let Shakespeare's mighty name frighten you off from such excellent reading as the duel between the woman-hating Benedict and the man-hating Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing".

Of course voluntary reading is largely for fun, and so it should be. But don't get the idea that all the fun, or even most of it, is confined to the slick newcomers which the publishers and the Book-Clubs and the book reviewers make their living by urging us to read on pain of being dumb or ignorant.

(An extended list of readable old books, with entertaining comments, can be found in Somerset Maugham's "Books and You.")

As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

Some monkey wrenches in the Nazi machinery. The calculations of the German high command that by August 15, 1940, German soldiers would be parading on the streets of London have completely missed the mark. In fact, German propaganda is now engaged in educating the German people on the possibility of a long war. The "Blitzkrieg" has lost some of its "Blitz."

The R.A.F.'s destructive bombing of the German capital was not on Germany's menu. Hitler had promised the Berliners that the city would not be bombed. If the British reports are true, not only has Berlin been bombed, but other vital parts of Germany have also had a taste of what the R.A.F. can do.

And for some strange reason, German propaganda has not boasted about how many British planes have been brought down on German soil.

Last summer the American press informed us that the German industrialists were promising deliveries to Latin American merchants in September. German goods, however, have not been delivered. Rumor has it that German agents are buying American goods, substituting German trade names for the American, and selling them at a loss. All of these are indications that Hitler did not take into account the human element in making his plans.

Hitler's venture into Rumania may be an admission that the English are giving the German forces stiff resistance. Perhaps the German high command is looking for weaker points in the British empire. The presence of German troops in Rumania suggests several movements. Certainly it means that Rumania is now under German domination. With Bulgaria more or less submissive to German plans, Yugoslavia and Greece are placed in untenable positions as independent states. Both of these countries might be asked to yield territory to Bulgaria. Then Germany and Italy can force Turkey to allow passage of their troops to Syria. There the Nazi powers will face the British army, stationed in the Near East. The Nazis will likely try to cap the Mozul oil fields in the Near East. If they are successful in these ventures, they might then strike at Egypt, both from the north and the south, the Suez canal being the main goal, of course. Should all of these plans be carried out, the British Empire still would not be dismembered nor its naval strength crippled. Merchant ships can still make just as good time around the Cape of Good Hope as through the Suez canal.

Should Russia remain passive to these activities of the Nazi powers in the Balkans and the Near East, the democracies should discard any hope of aid from her. Russia either condones Hitler's scheme of things or else she has been rendered impotent. With Japan in the East and Germany in the West as active allies, Russia is placed between the hammer and the anvil.

Evidence that human beings witnessed formation of Crater Lake thousands of years ago is under study by University of Oregon scientists.

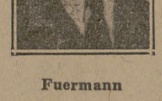
A helicopter whose rotor or propeller blade is driven by air is being developed at Georgia School of Technology.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Once Over Lightly . . . An In-team adieu Tuesday afternoon as fantry senior—dressed in civilian clothes—passed one of the regular Army majors without saluting recently. In short order the lad was summoned back and asked why he didn't salute. "I didn't think I was supposed to salute when I'm 'non-reg'," he alibied. "Hell," the major bombasted, "You're supposed to salute if you're buck-naked." . . .



Fuermann

Simile of the week: Henry McLemore's quip—via a recent Associated Press story—to the effect that, "And the traffic was so congested that before a gal could cross the street, her dress was in danger of going out of style." . . . Recently returned from Washington, D. C., Col. Ike Ashburn is telling of his visit with the Aggies former football great, "Dandy" Dick Todd. Now turned pro, Dick's still a football great in his new league. "He's burnin' 'em up as a fine broken-field runner," Col Ashburn said. Playing with the Washington Redskins, Dick made a 72 yard run against the New York Giants two Sundays ago. In the same game he received an intestinal injury which still has him out of action. Quoth Dick: "Commending the Aggies' fine team is the easiest thing I can do. Incidentally, I can say that I'm really hungry for A. & M. news." . . . A little-known fact—at A. & M., at least—about the lovely Mollie McKellar, who'll queen the A. & M. Rodeo October 18, is that she is one of the Southwest's finest horsewomen. Mollie has a brother at Aggeland, Cavalryman Alden S. McKellar, and she's one of the few Texas belles who have ridden in Madison Square Garden.

California, Here We Come. Between 200 and 250 cadets are now on their way to the land of alleged no-rain where the A. & M.-U.C.L.A. fracas reigns as the number one bit of gridiron warfare in the nation next Saturday afternoon. The unprecedented number of Aggies to make the cross-country jaunt is partly explained by the fact that the college extended excused absences to the travellers. And, incidentally, the California corps trip is little different than any other corps trip where modes of transportation are concerned. Automobiles, trucks, trains, airplanes, and thumbs were enlisted to effect the 1500-mile distance between College Station and Los Angeles' Coliseum.

Unique. Aggeland's self-styled "All-American hitch-hiker," Keyes Carson, is proving the truth of the claim once again. Keyes bid the

Blitzkrieg. The Army bomber that flew over the college a few minutes before the team left for California Tuesday was piloted by an Aggie-ex, Lieutenant Thomas F. Collins who "bombed" the college with a piece of metal to which a note was attached. It read:

"Fight 'em Aggies! I'll be in there pitching for you next Saturday in L. A. I'm flying over in an airplane and I will drop this note hoping someone finds it. I'm enroute to Washington, D. C. I'll be at the game Saturday as I'm stationed at the Sacramento Air Base, Sacramento, California and I'll be back there Thursday afternoon. Give 'em hell Army." Lieutenant Collins is a graduate of the class of '39.

Backwash Errs. Tuesday's column said that best of the current crop of football signs was the Coast Artillery banner interpreting U.C.L.A. as "You Can't Lick the Aggies." Freshman George D. Boesch writes that crediting the sign to "A" Battery Coast Artillery was a mistake—the banner having been made by the freshmen of "H" Battery Coast Artillery. Backwash apologizes.

Dallas A&M Club Gives Aggie Dance

The Dallas A. & M. Mother's Club would sponsor a dance for all Aggies and their friends on the Saturday night of the A. & M.-S.M.U. corps trip November 9.

The dance, which will be held in the Adolphus Hotel, will cover two entire separate floors with an orchestra playing on each floor. The dance will last from 9 until 1. The orchestras will be announced at a later date.

Movie Review

By Tom Gillis

Even those who did not see "Jesse James" will want to see "THE RETURN OF FRANK JAMES" at the Campus Friday and Saturday. Slow drawing Henry Fonda slows down all the action, but technicolor helps to make it interesting.

This part II of the saga of the James brothers begins with the death of Jesse, just where "Jesse James" left off. At first Frank has no inclination to avenge his brother's death, leaving things up to the courts like a law abiding citizen. The ways of justice are well oiled with money, however, and the men go free. Dissatisfied, Frank and a young hero worshiper, Jackie Cooper take up the trail. But Frank robs a railroad freight office and the law catches him before he has a chance to avenge brother Jesse. Climax of the production comes in the courtroom while Frank is on trial and this scene alone is worth the time to see the show. Defended by a canny old lawyer, Frank is dramatically freed after courtroom shenanigans which would give hints on procedure to the most able lawyer.

This courtroom scene is undoubtedly the best in the feature. The other parts of the show are cluttered up with too many chases on horseback and too much childishness on the part of Jackie Cooper. John Carradine has the part of the assassin of Jesse who must be purged to keep the family name clean. This show is a little above the average, and if you like high grade westerners, this is one of the highest.

The benefit show at the Assembly Hall Friday is "SAFARI". Being a jungle picture, one would hardly expect to find Madeline Carroll in it, but let it be said that she graces the picture rather well. Her perfectly fixed blond hair and natty clothes are very pretty all right, but not exactly the things one would expect to find in darkest Africa. The reason she does fairly well is that not too much footage shows her in the underbrush and insects and pythons, etc., but most of it as the companion of a wealthy continental whose hobby is big game hunting. Guide

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday, 3:30 & 6:45—
"BROTHER ORCHID", starring Edward G. Robinson, Ann Sothern, Humphrey Bogard, Donald Crisp, Ralph Belamy, and Allen Jenkins.
Friday—"SAFARI", featuring Madeline Carroll, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Tullio Carminati.
AT THE CAMPUS
Thursday—"SANDY IS A LADY", with Baby Sandy, Mischa Auer, Nan Grey, Tom Brown, and Eugene Pallette.
Friday, Saturday—"THE RETURN OF FRANK JAMES", starring Henry Fonda, Gene Tierney, Jackie Cooper, Henry Hull, John Carradine, and Donald Meek.

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