

The Battalion

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

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Our Sympathy

SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS a mother—the mother of an Aggie—waits anxiously for the return of her son. For a week now she has been waiting in vain ever hoping. A sound on the front steps—she starts. Maybe it is Webb come home at last. She rushes to the window for the hundredth time in the day. But it is only the paper boy. She sighs and turns away, the spirit of doom weighing heavily on her mind, and her heart burdened with sorrow.

Last Saturday after the Baylor game Webb Carnes, an A. & M. freshman left to surprise his folks and have Sunday dinner at his home in San Antonio. But somehow Carnes didn't get home. Nor did he get back to school. No one has seen or heard of him since.

Webb Carnes was not the type of boy to cause his family such heartbreak intentionally, and he would know to call collect if he could get to a telephone. Police are baffled; college authorities haven't the faintest idea what could have happened.

A reward of \$500 has been offered, but neither the family nor the college officials believe him to be kidnapped. There is not enough information even to speculate.

But in the meantime a mother waits hardly daring to hope—yet watching, waiting, anxiously despairing. To Mrs. Carnes The Battalion extends its deepest sympathy. We wish there was something that we could do to lead to the discovery of his location.

United We Stand; Divided?

LIKE THE CHAIN a senior class is only as strong as its weakest and most non-interested member. The attendance at Wednesday's class meeting indicates that very few of the class of '41 are interested at all. Had Wednesday's attendance been doubled, there still wouldn't have been enough of the members present to constitute a quorum to do business.

Lately a great "howl" has been raised that the faculty is taking all the authority from the students. This is not so and the class officers will admit it. The fact is that the class cannot get together and the class officers hesitate to act without the consent or approval of the students they represent.

Certain issues need immediate action as all class members know, but until the senior class gets interested enough in these matters nothing will be done. It is not the faculty taking away any authority, it is the lack of assumption of said authority by the very ones who are objecting to faculty intervention.

To each man who missed Wednesday's class meeting we plead: Seniors, this is your year. This is your class. Let's make it a big year and a class that gets things done. The officers cannot accomplish much alone. They need your confidence and your support. They need your ideas. They need your help.

Youth

"THE YOUTH MOVEMENT," quips a paragrapher in the University of Texas Daily Texan, "is most active when someone wants the lawn mowed."

To some degree, American youth is on the defensive. Not a few persons in high places have been outspoken in their criticism. "Recently," observes the Los Angeles Collegian, "we, the youth of the United States, have been the victims of a campaign calling us 'a bunch of cowards... a disgrace to the old families of trail-blazers.'" The Collegian continues that youth has "no desire to go over to Europe and be involved in another one of Europe's muddles. We are afraid of having to fight someone else's fight... But we ARE NOT afraid to fight our OWN FIGHT."

The Creighton university Creightonian notes that "Mr. Arnold Whitridge, in an open letter to American undergraduates, charged that students are not only un-American and pro-Nazi but downright immoral because they don't grab a gun and charter the first boat to England." The Creightonian replies that "the reason undergraduates are opposed to intervention is not because we are too sluggish to defend our ideals, but because we believe that allying with England is not the way to defend them."

Citing the rush of youth to volunteer for service in the armed forces, the Louisiana State university Reveille notes that "very often American youth is condemned for talking intelligently and thinking shallowly." "We wonder" asks the Reveille, "if these 'condemners' would take the time to sit and consider the action of America's youth, with the world and his life before him, who sets aside his personal plans and ideas in order that he may serve his country—would they so hastily shout 'shallow?'"

Defense of youth has come also from faculty sources, among them Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve of Barnard college, who declares the charges are exaggerated, and Lehigh university pres. C. C. Williams, who holds it is not the young people, but the elders of the land, especially the statesmen, who have lost their hardiness.

A challenge to youth is voiced by the Santa Clara, publication at the University of Santa Clara, Calif. "Recently," it says, "in a letter to a national magazine, a woman accused American young men of doing nothing but 'living off their parents and the government, riding around in jalopies, and exercising an immoral attitude toward women.'" The Santa Clara believes "the immediate reaction of the subjects of such attacks is laughter or contempt. It is an unfortunate truth, however, that the last person to recognize a fault is the subject of that fault. It is the duty of college men to exhibit in themselves such industry, patriotism and adherence to Christian principles that in times of national crises scurrilous attacks upon 'American Youth' will be made impossible."

If the college press of the land is an indicator, youth recognizes its shortcomings, resents the unfairness of some critics, and is resolved to disprove all charges of weakness.

Associated Collegiate Press

OPEN FORUM

WHERE IS THE SONG that means so much to every "Aggie?" What has happened to "The Spirit of Aggieworld?" As the juniors and seniors will remember, it has been the custom for the "Twelfth man" to sing "The Spirit of Aggieworld," at the end of the band's formations during the half at the football games.

On October 26, 1940 in Waco, one verse of the song was played. We would like to see this old custom revived. Can't something be done about this?

We are proud to be Aggies and we surely are proud of "The Spirit of Aggieworld" and would like to hear it played in its entirety during the half at every football game.

Signed,
W. E. Smith, '41
H. Shanger, '42
M. B. Inman Jr., '41
W. E. Frost, '42
C. L. Walker, '42
Don Earroll, '41
J. M. Vivian, '42
L. H. Mead, '41
H. E. Ritcher, '42
V. W. Michaels, '41
Orville Hamilton, '41
Hub Johnson, '41
George L. Mueller, '41
Travis V. Hodges, '41

Walter Blume, '40
George Barron, '41
C. F. Thompson, '42
H. E. Haltom, '40
W. J. Owen, '41
Don Earroll, '42
I. B. Stitt, '41
I. F. Lewis, '41
J. A. Clay Jr., '41
J. C. Foster
J. U. Bailey, '40
H. A. Derrick, '41
C. A. Gochicoa, '41

EVERY GROUP has its two percents and the Aggies had theirs in Waco last week end. There were a few things done then that are not in keeping with the feelings of most of the Aggies. One of the most notable of these was the wearing of diamonds by unclassified seniors. These men stick out like sore thumbs in the eyes of the students, and they are not appreciated by anyone. This is a deplorable state of affairs when all a man has to do when he wants to become a cadet officer is to just buy his buttons or diamonds and put them on. This isn't fair to the men that have earned them.

We sincerely hope that the same incident does not occur in Dallas next week.

T. M. Hagood
Carlos L. Dodd
Tom Stovell
A. R. Newman
Bob Little
Joe Slicker

C. J. Keese
A. L. Bullard
Clint Kennemer
Thos. D. Hill
Glenn H. Reynolds

As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON

THE JAPANESE HAVE ABANDONED the Chinese city of Nanking, which makes it the first Chinese provincial capitol to be regained by the fighting Chinese. Since its re-occupation by the Chinese armies they have also forced the Japanese to abandon several other strategic points in the same province.

We continue to appease Japan. The administration has made the general announcement that aviation gas may not be sold to Japan, but in reality this affects only the highest grades and the ordinary used grades are still available for export. The sale of scrap iron has been forbidden but this forced the Japanese to buy high grade processed steel, and iron, from the big companies. This does not hurt Japan in the slightest, but does INCREASE THE PROFITS of the big steel corporations and competes with our own re-armament program.

President Roosevelt recently appointed a negro to the rank of brig. general in the army which reminds us that the only negro in the U. S. Congress is a member of the Democratic Party, elected from the State of Illinois. This particular member of the dominant political party in the South made a trip through certain southern states some time back and refused to obey the law requiring whites and negroes to ride in different compartments on the train.

A late news report states that Neville Chamberlain, appeasement-minded former prime minister is on his way from England to California. Evidently he has lost confidence in the efficiency of his umbrella as a shelter from Nazi bombs.

General Hugh Johnson has a very informative article on the progress and efficiency of the armament program in the United States in the December number of COSMOPOLITAN, which is now on the news stands. One interesting item of general interest is his statement that the naval air force is now weaker in combat strength than it was five months ago when the government suddenly awakened to the national danger.

A Question? Why is it considered needful to keep the American people in ignorance of the detailed progress, or lack of progress, in the armament program. The usual answer is to keep the information from the hands of enemies, but so far the Germans seem to experience no difficulty in getting the details of our most important secrets, such as the much touted bomb-sight. The only ones who are left in ignorance are the American people who must pay for the program and whose safety is at stake.

Movie Review

BY Tom Gillis

"OF MICE AND MEN" is a strong and wistful tale that concerns mostly men, especially two human derelicts who flee from the law to a ranch in California. Lon Chaney Jr. has his first major role in this feature as a big bruiser with too much brawn and no brains and Burgess Meredith who acts somewhat as his guardian or keeper. The combination of ox-like strength and childish mentality constantly get the pair into difficulties, and Meredith is constantly afraid that real tragedy may befall him.

In the story, Chaney follows Meredith as a dog does its master and obeys him with the same unquestioned faith. His main weakness is a moronic pleasure in stroking soft objects such as small animals or fur. To evade a posse in one place, the pair flee to a California ranch and get jobs as migratory workers. The only woman in the show is Betty Field, the cheap and lonely wife of another worker. She flirts with everyone and Chaney is brought under her spell when he strokes her soft hair. Here the tragedy falls because his strength is so much greater than his judgment, and his guardian is not near. The end of the show gives about the only solution to such a poor individual's bull-in-a-china shop problem of too much power and not enough reason to control it.

This story is taken from the best selling novel by John Steinbeck, who also wrote "Grapes of Wrath."

LAST DAY

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NOV. 1-2
WED • THUR • FRI • SAT •

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BACKWASH

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

Once Over Lightly... Philosophy: From the bulletin board of The Houston Post, "What gaineth a man if he keepeth his pride and turneth down an offer of a short beer?"... A truism hard to deny was the recent quip of J. C. Hotard's secretary, Jane Grey, A cadet walked into Jane's office and—making conversation—asked her if anything unusual had happened lately. "Uh-huh," she replied pointing to a stack of departmental salary checks, "that's unusual—only happens 12 times a year!"... And still another aftermath of the Aggie-Uclan game is the letter received by Aggie Ira Lewis from his brother Forrest who is now attending aeronautical school in California. The chief concern of the letter was the Aggies' victory yell, "Lizzie."



Fuermann

"Send me that yell that A. & M. used when they talked so sissy and kinda whistled like a few thousand and ghosts and said something about cherry phosphates."—which is a new high in description for Lizzie. The yell, incidentally, is California-bound... All of the high school girls you'll see on the campus today aren't part of Luther Stark's famed Bengal Guards. College Station's Consolidated High School girls will be selling football souvenirs in the guise of a small maroon and white doll. The girls—and their mothers—worked for a week making the dolls, the proceeds from which will go to their athletic fund for the purpose of buying much-needed sweaters for the players.

Meaning the Royal Canadian Air Force which is already plus-populated with Texas Aggies. Latest addition to the A. & M. contingent is Bentley Clements who left college just a month ago. Other recent additions are James Bassett and Bob Groulx who supplemented Jack Garner, Bill Tyler, Bill Gibb, Jerry Jones, and Allen Lindsey.

The Aggies are receiving a big play in the Canadian press and reports from the former cadets indicate that the citizenry of the maple leaf country are treating them like royalty. One article appearing in The Windsor Sun says, "The Texans are already well known here and will be long and favorably remembered in Windsor." Most of the Aggies are stationed in Toronto at No. 1 Manning Pool. Besides the Aggies, there are more than 150 other Texans now in training for the R. C. A. F. as well as in the field artillery and tank units of the Canadian army.

One Aggie writes, "I wore my number one uniform—boots and

all—down the main street of Toronto the other night and I seriously doubt whether Ann Sheridan in the nude could have caused any more commotion." He continues, "In Canada everything is either 'bloody' or 'blimy'—like 'a bloody night' or 'a blimy good time.' We stay in the Y. M. C. A. free of charge and the R. C. A. F. pays 75 cents each for our meals and gets gyped on all but a dime of it. We rejoice at every A. & M. football victory and want you to

know that our hearts are still with Aggies."

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