

The Battalion

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

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Clarifying the Issue

THE SINCERITY of juniors and seniors in desiring the early suspension of holidays is a point about which any doubt should be allayed. On the surface it might appear that the agitation was stirred up and facts overemphasized in order that school might be dismissed and extra holidays gained.

Such is not the case! The committee that appeared before the faculty stressed again and again that their purpose was to prevent further spread of the flu epidemic and that that was the sole reason.

Here we would again like to stress that point. To prove their point the boys indicated that the time taken at this time would willingly be made up at a later date, and several plans have been advanced to take care of the situation. However, at this time none has been adopted.

When 60 men in an organization of 200 become so ill that school work is impossible then there is time for concern, and just that has happened in one outfit, and the case is about that over the campus. It would be an injustice to keep students at school under such conditions.

Again it is imperative that we impress those concerned with the facts that the students are earnestly seeking sensible solutions to their problems, and that frivolous or hot-headed decisions are not responsible for the holidays.

Careful consideration was given the issue by level-headed students and faculty members, and a logical solution was the result.

Real Meaning of Xmas

Christmas really means, "Christ, the gift of God to men, women and children". To the English people we owe the word Christmas — Christ Mass — a religious ceremony celebrating the birth of Christ.

December 25th is the accepted date of the birth of Christ as He was born at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Do you know why Santa Claus comes down the chimney at Christmas time instead of coming through the window? English custom of sweeping down the chimney at New Year so good luck could enter.

It is to the Dutch that we owe the custom of hanging up our stockings. They placed their wooden shoes before the large fireplace, but we Americans substituted stockings because wooden shoes would not stretch.

The holly wreath that we hang in our homes was copied from the English who believed the holly leaves represented the thorns Christ wore upon the cross, while the little red berries were the drops of His blood.

For nearly 2,000 years the world has been getting better. Men and women have more confidence in each other; credit has been placed upon a firm foundation.

The giving of Christmas presents brings out the thought—"Peace on earth, good will toward men".

It was General W. B. Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, who was once asked the question if he were solicited to leave a message to the world what would it be. He wrote only one word and signed his name. That word was "others".

Happiness is not seeking pleasure for ourselves but doing the necessary things for others.

I think we should pause long enough to thank God for living in a Christian country. You know, I believe in prayer. My definition of prayer would be—communicating with God for that which we desire—no deserve.

Did you know the Mohammedan people pray five times daily, but only pray for themselves—never for others? Christmas is a good time to pause long enough to take stock of ourselves and really see of what value we have been through the year to our neighbors, city, county, state and nation.

Let us all enter into the Christmas spirit, love one another, give to those less fortunate than ourselves, and try to carry out Christ's teachings.

—By P. L. Downs, Jr.

Quotable Quotes

"THE COUNTRY MUST abandon the present cafeteria system of education in which the student is left free to select any academic diet he pleases, subordinate vocational training to liberal education, and recognize differences in natural ability. Liberal education which is partly informative, partly disciplinary and partly moral, in making men think for themselves, is the only effective training for responsible citizenship in a democratic state." Prof. T. M. Greene of the philosophy department of Princeton university believes American schools and colleges fail to provide students with an adequate education for life in a democratic society.

"Today it is obvious that Germany is a country

that has to be reckoned with; it is obvious, too, we are not, to put it mildly, on friendly terms with her; it is all the more important to understand her and her language. Chamberlain did not understand German and for that reason perhaps could not understand Hitler." Dr. Berthold L. Ullman, professor of Latin at the University of Chicago, says the complete disappearance of German during the World War years was deplorable and foolish.

"Perhaps the most frightening aspect of modern war is the intellectual blackout which it creates. One does not have to subscribe to H. G. Wells' grim prophecy that 'mankind, which began in a cave and behind a windbreak, will end in the disease-soaked ruins of a slum'; but certainly the night in Europe without the sacrifice of cultural values on so vast a scale that the chance of an enlightened and gracious life, not alone for this generation in Europe but for the children and grandchildren of this generation, will be irretrievably lost." Rockefeller Foundation's President Raymond B. Fosdick voices fears over the war's cultural destruction.

"The young man or woman planning a career should begin to point toward it in high school or even earlier. He should learn which fields interest him, which he seems to be fitted for, which will call for capacities he seems to have. He can develop his talents along those lines, and if his interests shift he can change his goal. But he should be pointing toward something, talking about it, reading about it, working at it in his spare time, if possible. Then he will come out of school with some understanding of what he wants to do, what he can do and why he thinks as he does. He will be ready to start his career." Walter Hoving, writing in the New York Times, restates an old-fashioned truth.

—Associated Collegiate Press

FRANK LOVING PRESENTS:

I Heard the Preacher Say

PROGRESS . . . all of us, engineer and ag student, post-grads and professors, realize the importance of the word. All of us recognize its powerful influences and know that an inevitable result of it is the necessity of adjusting our society and individual lives and actions to the changes it forces upon us. We have progressed beyond hangings for witchcraft; we have progressed beyond enslaving our fellow man; we have progressed beyond the subjugation of one sex as inferior to the other; why then must we remain in the same old rut when it comes around to our religion! I hereby charge that the vast majority of the religious leaders here and about everywhere else are propounding to the intelligent youth of this country a lot of obsolete theological bunk that might have convinced someone in the middle ages of something, but which is quite out of the ken of the modern mind. Though there is still a class of people to which this type of thing may appeal, it is not helping a bit in reaching the kind of thinkers turned out in the modern colleges and universities. I think the cry of our religious leaders should not be about a "return to religion," but rather for a "turn of religion." If any good is to be reaped from the teachings of our faith, those teachings must be adapted to the attitudes fostered in a modern youth, and not in the good old trite "camp meeting style". I do not propose to deny father his "old time religion," but I beg that it be given to me with definite modifications. Faith is a logical thing, make it logical, not sentimental; love and kindness are reasonable, make them products of reason, not of fear; our God can be proven by meditation, prove him thus, and not with hackneyed and oratorical truisms.

As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON

A NEW SET OF LOCKS will at last be built for the Panama Canal in order to prevent disruption of national defense through the possible destruction of the present locks. The new construction will allow the present fleet to cross from one ocean to the other in one half the forty seven hours required. The catch in the proposition is that it will take a minimum of five years to complete the construction of the new locks.

A former Aggie, recently called into active service, has been seeking to rent an apartment in the city where he is now stationed. He reports to his family the moment the owners or managers see his uniform, they ask sixty-five dollars for an apartment which has been advertised to rent for thirty-five dollar per month. From the individual to the mass of organized labor and big business, the sole object of a large proportion of the population of the United States seems to be to profiteer at the expense of the national safety. Such people would sell their government to the enemy if they obtained their pay of "thirty pieces of silver".

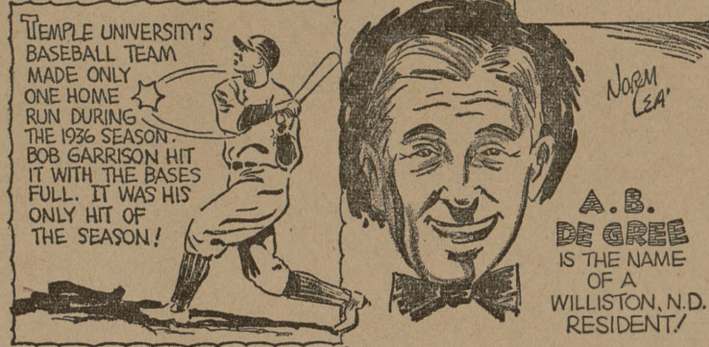
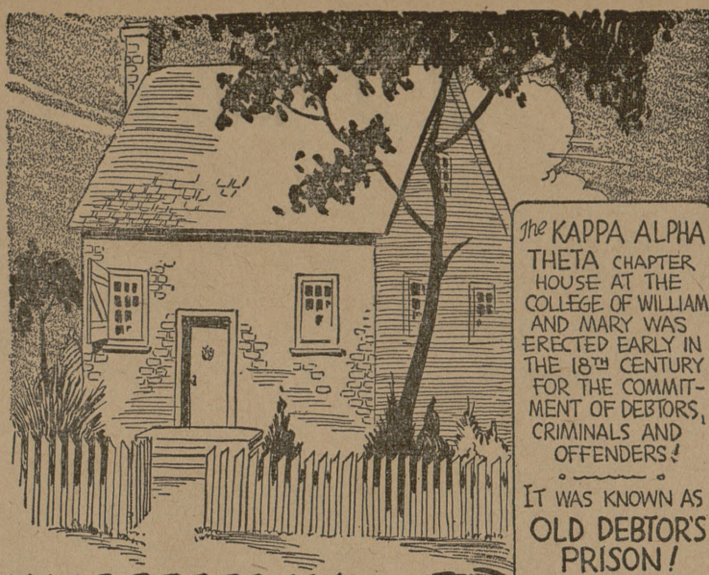
Haile Selassie, former ruler of Ethiopia, is on the march again. Now located just on the border of his country and Egypt he is directing a campaign of revolt against the Italians. His people call him the "Conquering Lion of Judah" and he claims descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Though short in stature the former Emperor seems to be long on courage and persistence.

Lily Pons has just become a naturalized citizen of the United States, thus giving up her French citizenship.

Finland is now rearming in preparation for further eventualities. Her Budget for the army doubled this year. Apparently the Fins do not trust "someone".

Many bombs dropped on London by German planes were found to be of British make. Our boys will no doubt enjoy being killed by shells made of American steel, fired from ships made of American steel, powered by engines using American oil, all financed through the sale of silk to clothe the pretty legs of American women. The Japanese, contemptuous of American good sense, are not even making a secret of their intentions.

Deanna Durbin, now nineteen years of age, has announced her engagement. This announcement will probably be of greater interest to most young men than the most vital news of national or international importance.



BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Finis, 1940 . . . Easily one of the greatest years in the 64-year history of Texas A. & M. college 1940 opened with a boom as the Aggies defeated Tulane 14 to 13 in the New Orleans Sugar Bowl last January 1. And the year closed equally as boomingly as the senior class—in an unprecedented move for the class of '41—carried its fight for a desired gain to the faculty and college officials, a fight in which the seniors carried their point, together with the aid of a near-epidemic of influenza. Watch for repercussions from this move, from cadets and faculty members alike, during the first few weeks of the yet unborn 1941. Principal aim of the seniors in asking for an early dismissal for Christmas holidays was not guided by a desire to avoid two or three more days of class room work. The real aim was twofold. First, the seniors justly claimed that the near-epidemic of flu now current on the campus might spread even further and result in the loss of life. Second, and one of equal concern to the senior class, that seniors allegedly were allowed a certain amount of authority, but every time the class had attempted to take authority the same had been denied. The principle of the thing was more of a concern than the thing itself. Only weak point in the senior argument was in placing the blame for the tremendously unpopular 30-cent guest charge in the mess halls at the feet of the faculty. The board of directors alone is responsible for the surcharge. Incidentally, it is highly probable that the board will vote to cancel the meal-surcharge at their next meeting at which time they will hear the plea of a four-man committee representing the student body. Backwash believes that the initiative taken by the senior class where the near-crisis of the past three days is concerned was a good thing and rates the class 21-carat, grade A congratulations.



Fuermann

Rev was a little reluctant to talk about her latest honor (she's quite modest for a dog), but bystanders soon coaxed her into telling the story. "The fact is," she said, "I'm a member of the Tom Green County chapter of the Red Cross. Guess I'm just about the only dog to belong to the Red Cross," she proudly added. "You see, it all happened like this. A fella by the name of Thomas A. Bond from Rankin requested Susan Miles—she's the secretary of the Tom Green chapter—to give me a membership. Well, Susan talked it over with the rest of the chapter and now I'm a member of the Red Cross."

Rev's not only a member, but she can prove it. She wears her new Red Cross button on her collar, and, if you'll go by her room, she'll show you her membership card.

You may be one of those people who doesn't believe that Rev can talk, but she's been hanging around the campus so long (she began rooming here in 1931) that a wag of her tail and her short barks are easily interpreted by any Aggie from dog languages to good honest English.

Aggie Enrollment. At one time or another, all of the state's 254 counties have been represented in the college's enrollment. Most bashful of the lot, however, is Yoakum County which failed to furnish a cadet for the corps until 1938. Winkler County didn't show until 1936.

In 1906, 137 counties were represented in the enrollment figures; today 240 counties are included in the campus personnel. Zapata County hasn't done so well, only one student from that county having enrolled in the college since its birth in 1876, and he waited until 1923 to do so.

In the 64-year history of the college 47 of the states have been represented in the student body. Delaware alone has failed to send a candidate to be a Texas Aggie.

This year 43 of the states are represented. Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Vermont and Delaware are the unsociable states for the 1940-41 long session.

As in years past, Louisiana leads the states in A. & M. out-of-state enrollment. This year the state that furnished A. & M. a bowl for its football team to play in last January 1 sent 73 students to be members of the cadet corps. Arkansas, California, New York and Oklahoma are four other heavy contributors to the college's enrollment.

Forty-three foreign nations have been represented in the college's student body since it was founded. Most of A. & M.'s foreign students come from Central and South America. Puerto Rico and Mexico have especially large delegations

The lady's name is Reveille. Reveille, just in case you aren't educated in these things, is the famed mascot of the Texas A. & M. cadet corps. She isn't much to look at—as beauty in dogdom goes—but she's a little black and white combination-bred dog who rates "tops" in the opinions of Aggies and Aggie-exes throughout the world.

But back to this Red Cross deal again. "I've never been so surprised in all my life," she admitted to the writer a few hours after the ceremony was over, "and I'm certainly indebted to Tom Bond for his influence in this matter," she said.

\$2,000 Donated to TSCW Architecture Class to Buy Wood for Low Cost House

Two thousand dollars has been given to the senior architecture design class by the Douglas Fir plywood Association for the purchase of plywood to be used in building a low cost house at T.S.C.W. in the near future.

During this week Joseph Weston, representative of this company, is visiting in the architecture department and is showing the students the possibilities of plywood construction. To those seniors who are designing the low cost house project he is showing pictures, giving lectures, and sitting in with them on informal discussions for the purpose of bringing forth new ideas.

The house itself will be located behind the Arts building on the campus of T. S. C. W. at Denton. After its completion it will be used as a demonstration house by the home economics department there.

At the beginning of the semester the architectural students were given a problem in which they were to design this house for a family of four. The house was to be built at a minimum cost and yet afford many advantages. Preliminary plans were completed and forwarded to the home economics and art majors at T.S.C.W.

Just before the Thanksgiving holidays these girls came to A. M. to discuss the plans and offers suggestions. As a result of the meeting the architecture students have taken up a further stage in the development of their plans.

To lower the cost of the house, which is being designed on the modular system, it will be built in the shops and assembled on the job. In such construction there are three types of sections that are used: one with a door, one with a window, and one with a solid surface to be used as a wall section.

The senior architecture class is designing around a new way of

BRAIN TWISTER

By R. R. Lyle
Some of the boys who have had calculus asked me for a problem involving calculus so this is one involving Math. 203.

A frustum of a cone has slant height of twenty-four inches and the diameter of the upper base is six inches. What should be the diameter of the lower base to give a maximum volume to the frustum. Answer 18.814.

You boys who are studying half and double angle formulae in trig should be interested in the following.

A nine-ribbed umbrella is striped of its fabric covering so that its ribs are straight even when open. They are opened so that each rib makes an angle of 15° with the center stick. Find the angle any rib makes with the one next to it. Answer 10°18'

at A. & M. each year.

China, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Palestine, Korea, Arabia and Greece are among the many other nations which give the corps a cosmopolitan flavor.

Only three students from Germany have attended the college; the last being for a year during the 1916-17 session.

living rather than around any set of historical forms. As a result greater improvements will come about in the planning of the home, planning of its room arrangement, and in planning its position on the lot so that it will take maximum advantage of sun, air, and view and give maximum use of the ground, however small.

Those seniors in the class are Charles Bailey, Frank Beadle, Preston Bolton, Joe Bourn, Richard Brooks, LaVere Brooks, Sid Lord, Roland Laney, Raymond Parrish, and Ray Rose.

A. B. YEARWOOD JR., class of '39, has been appointed temporary associate agronomist at John Tarleton Agricultural College. Yearwood was graduated with a double major in Animal Husbandry and Agronomy. He came to his present position from Tucson, Arizona where he was a student assistant in Range Research.

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