

The Battalion

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

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Stop and Look Around

THERE IS A MAN who feels perfectly at home when he is pecking a typewriter with one hand, holding a phone in the other, talking to a friend and munching a sandwich all at the same time. He likes to impress his fellow man with the fact that he is busy. That fellow is the typical American.

Now isn't it a fact that we of today go so fast and so constantly that we are passing life by in a whirl? We are getting the full benefit of none of our activities.

What makes us think we can study, shoot the bull with half a dozen in the room, pat our feet in time to the music on the radio, and read the paper all at the same time?

The same efficiency expert must have started the barber business where the customer gets a manicure, a shave, a haircut, and a funny story all at the same time. He touched the filling-station business, too.

We live but once is the theory, and we are trying to do everything in that time. Look at the course of normal activity of the average college student: 18 to 20 hours academic work, home-town club, National Institute of This or That, Glee Club if he's musical, newspaper or annual, honor societies, etc. Where is the time for recreation? Where is his time for stopping to catch his breath?

Must the American life resemble a three-ring circus?
Don Herold in *Your Life* said, "I'd like a chance to do one thing at a time some of the time." Think for instance how much better our man could have done his jobs if he had put down his sandwich, told his friend to wait a minute, stopped pecking his typewriter, and finished his phone conversation. Then he could do them singly and in order. His friend would not have to repeat; his sandwich would not have impaired his telephone conversation by filling his mouth while he was talking; and his taking more pains with the letter and his having more regard for his eyesight. Our man has a false sense of economy. He would be surprised at the net saving between the two methods—including his precious time.

The same applies to campus activities. The student who succeeds and rises to the top is not the fellow who dabbles in everything and does nothing well. The boy who drags in fame and glory picks out one activity and devotes all his time and energy to that end.

But the modern student heeds not the warning. He burns his candle at both ends and in the middle.

The thing to do to remedy the situation is to forget our modern fear of voids. Plan trips by yourself; go to a show alone; take a day off and get acquainted with yourself. Traveling by yourself can be such fun. You never have to consider anyone else's wishes about where to go, what to eat, when to stop, who to see.

A week's work can be saved sometimes by stopping for an hour to review the situation and plan the course.

The president strengthened his point by declaring that nothing good for America could be expected from a dictated peace. On the theory that America could expect a direct attack if the dictators won, he announced a national policy involving the following three points: (1) Full national defense preparations. (2) Full support to all people fighting the dictators and so aiding in keeping the war away from America. (3) Morality will never permit America to accept a peace dictated by aggressors and sponsored by appeasers. American aid will be given, if the president has his way, by lending war supplies to the enemies of the Axis, and permitting them to repay after peace is restored in similar goods, or in other goods which they can produce and which America needs. This proposal was greeted by enthusiastic and prolonged applause.

German and Italian newspapers have intimated that increased American aid might be considered an act of war. The president declared that such aid did not constitute an act of war, and insisted that when the Axis powers were ready to fight the United States they would not wait for us to commit an act of war.

America, Mr. Roosevelt declared, looks forward to a world marked by freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. With this ideal there can be no compromise, "there can be no end to save victory."

The speech was not startling in its proposals. The plan to lend war supplies to the enemies of the Axis was mentioned some time ago, and the president did not mention other plans for aiding that are now floating around Washington. Among the proposals apparently being considered, but not mentioned in this address are these: A plan to have American ships take over all British shipping routes in the Pacific, thus relieving British ships for use in the Atlantic, and nullifying the effectiveness of German raiders in the Pacific. A plan for American ships to transport goods to Ireland, which is neutral. Finally, a plan for American warships to convoy supply ships half way across the Atlantic, thus relieving the strain of the British navy.

General benefits to come from labor's turning its back on the "reds" are envisioned by the Daily Kansan. "President Roosevelt," says the Kansan, "would like a united, well controlled, anti-Communist labor front to work with him in courting business." Sidney Hillman (labor co-ordinator of the rearmament program) would like to free labor from the restraint of the Sherman anti-trust law. If he could unite the CIO and AFL in an alliance acceptable to the president, he might get what he wants and probably would co-operate with the administration. If Hillman can get the co-operation he wishes, Roosevelt may get the 'red' purge he wishes within labor ranks. If the 'reds' are purged, business may work with the administration with greater harmony. This is Roosevelt's answer to Mr. Willkie's 'loyal opposition'; either way, business can't lose.

University of Michigan extension service film library has 560 instructional motion pictures available for public use.

Possibly the only existing accurate portrait of William Barrett Travis, commander of the ill-fated Alamo, is housed in the University of Texas library.

Harvard University ornithologists are chasing seagulls by airplane in an effort to learn something of the amazing "homing instinct" of the birds.

Of South Dakota State college's 1940 graduates who sought teaching positions, 91 per cent have found jobs.

Fourteen-year-old Pamela Harvard Williams, war refugee from Wales, who is a guest of Prof. William Chase of Harvard, is a descendant of John Harvard, founder of the university.

together, the other skilled workers. One represents the proletariat of labor, the other the aristocracy. But although the difficulties are extensive, they cannot be as important to fight OVER as labor's cause in general is important to fight FOR."

The Dartmouth refers to labor in general in a discussion of production bottlenecks involving labor disputes, and contends that these bottlenecks are two-sided. "The talk" says the Dartmouth, "is all about eliminating the right to strike. There is not enough talk about eliminating the abuses that cause strikes. Obviously it would speed defense preparation if strikes were made fewer. Just as obviously, it takes two disputants to make a strike. If America is sincere in seeking to stop strikes in order to defend democracy, she would do well to look just as sharply to the practices of the manufacturer as to those of the laborer."

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—Associate Collegiate Press.

The Collegiate World

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As the World Turns...

BY DR. R. W. STEEN
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE to Congress on the State of the Union, was more nearly a message on the State of the World. His message was cheered at frequent intervals, and if the reception can be taken as a guide his requests will be granted by Congress.

He devoted most of the address to a discussion of America's relation to the present war, justifying this by the statement that never before has American security been so seriously threatened from without as now. He declared that the country was simply following an American policy in opposing enforced isolation for ourselves or any part of the Americas. The president declared that the Democratic way of life was being threatened in every part of the globe by either arms or propaganda, and that America must do what she can to aid the forces of democracy.

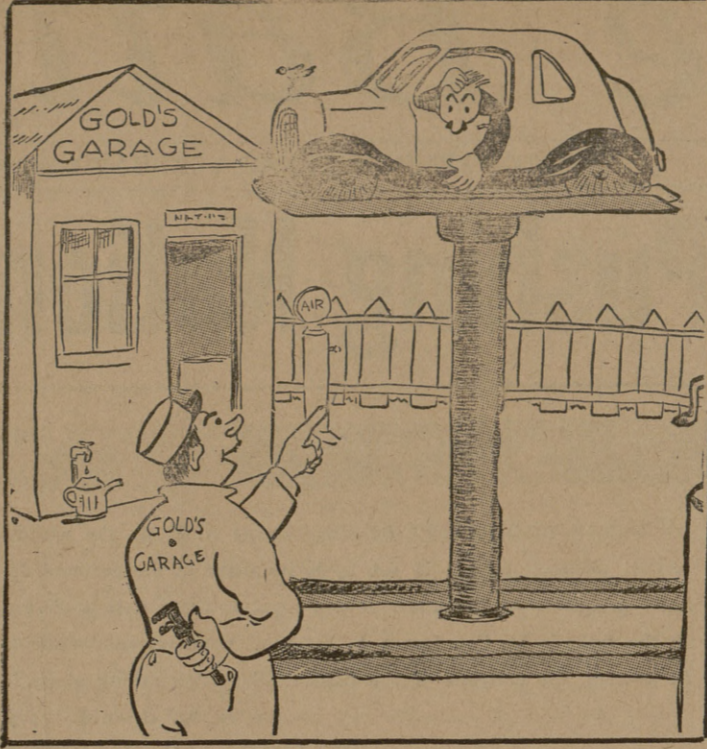
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"You'll stay right there, Mr. Hart, until you pay your bill!"

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

A Bird's Eye View . . . Watch for a complete and unbiased discussion of the current ASCAP-BMI feud in an early issue of The Battalion . . . Freshman Frank Gunn, a lad from Dumas, Texas, is one

Aggie who still believes in Santa Claus. During the holidays he won a 1941 Ford automobile in a raffle . . . Don J. MacIver of The Dallas News, gets off the best crack of the week with, "Instead of

all aid short of war, let's make it all aid to shorten the war." . . . It's getting to the place where even telephone operators have to be up on their comebacks. Witness, for example, the one who recently rang four numbers for a campus shiek. Finding nobody at home four times in a row, she disgustfully asked, "Well—have ya got any MORE numbers on your list?" . . . Howard Wilson and Virgil Cordero claim some kind of a record where long distance telephone calls are concerned. Christmas day the two called their father—Lt. Col. F. H. Wilson—who is now stationed at the Plattsburg Barracks, 3400-miles-distant. Cost—\$4.45. Quoth Howard: "We don't do that sort of thing every day!"

. . . Les Carpenter, associate editor of The Daily Texan, recently picked the seven worst pictures of the year. In his opinion *Strange Cargo*, *Down Argentine Way*, *All This and Heaven Too*, *Ramparts We Watch*, *Lillian Russell*, *New Moon* and *When the Dalton's Rode* get the nod. Backwash—and probably most Aggies—doesn't agree with Les' nominations, but his quip concerning Don Ameche is worth reprinting. Don wit: "The world's worst actor over fifteen years of age." . . . G. B. Winstead, A. & M. publicity director, was recently initiated into the Sigma Delta Chi professional journalism fraternity. A high honor in the world of journalism, the honor went to Winstead for his "outstanding achievements in journalism." . . . A Houston taxi driver, as a female-driven automobile darted out in front of his cab: "That's okeh, lady; Columbus took a chance and look what he discovered. If you do that again, though all you'll discover will be a nurse!"

Pig Is Pig
Proving that pig is where you find it and that the shortest way to a lady's heart is via the gift of a live, infant swine (cost \$2), an Aggie-ex who is a second lieutenant on active duty at the college recently brought the house down when he presented his sweetheart with a five-day-old porker. (A Christmas present of the unique sort—just in case you hadn't already guessed.)

The animal quickly won the lover's heart and all went its merry way until the belle's parents showed up. The mother shrieked while the father bellowed "Get that damn animal out of here in a hurry!"

This complicated things a little but, undaunted, the lieutenant returned the grunting mammal to his hotel room. Morning came and brought with it three alternatives. To wit: (1) sausage for breakfast, (2) turn the thing loose in the big city or (3) take the beast back to college. As for the first alternative, the officer decided he wasn't hungry, the second was too cruel and, anyway, maybe the poor thing would like a little higher education.

The animal is now receiving all callers at George Blackburn's room in Milner dorm.

Texas is fifth in the manufacture of cheese and eighth in the total income from the sale of milk.

The price paid farmers for milk is geared to its butter fat content. Legal butter fat minimums for milk usually range from 3 to 3.5 per cent.

Sad
The early dismissal last Dec. 14 at the behest of an influenza epidemic threw a wicked and unprecedented curve in the general direction of College Station business men.

The financial loss, in most cases, was terrific. All in all, Backwash estimates that merchants, barbers and cafe owners saw approximately \$12,000 (which would have been spent locally under normal conditions) go to more than a hundred home towns throughout the state and nation.

Barbers lost about \$50 each, local drug, clothing and variety stores, which had stocked-up on Christmas gifts, took a \$10,000 spanking, and the rest of the non-spending was divided between cafes, filling stations and other miscellaneous businesses.

Tops
The year 1940 is now part of history, but certain of its jokes—like its billions of other constituents—were better than others. Tops, Backwash believes, in this particular field is the story con-



I'm headed for George's where they really know how to make soft drinks. You can't go wrong there.

GEORGE'S Confectionery In New "Y"

Movie Review

By Tom Gillis

Probably no Notre Dame student will ever read this but let it be said that if their school and the men are as they are shown in "KNUTE ROCKNE—ALL AMERICAN," they produced a great man in the best sense of the word. Throughout this entire show the audience is never allowed to forget for a minute that Rockne and Notre Dame go together but the school is only allowed to stand in the honored shadow of the man.

Hollywood selected Pat O'Brien to play the role of this sports immortal, and as well as can be remembered from pictures, the resemblance is a reasonable facsimile. It is easily noticeable that the broadened nose and blond hair are false but the total resemblance is good. But that is only part of what makes the picture worthwhile. It is the moving life of a man who not only influenced football and Notre Dame to a degree which is still apparent today but set such an example for forthright living and sincerity that even the movie of it will make an outstanding impression on those who see it.

The show brings the kid Rockne from Norway and shows how he grows up in American playing sand lot football and working to go to college. While at college his many accomplishments land him a senior year as both the captain of the football team and the valedictorian too—quite a strange combination. As is well known, his struggle to decide between his love of chemistry and love of football ended in his decision to coach. Brought out in the show is something that many of us probably didn't know—that Rockne "invented" the forward pass in football, and while he was playing his senior year too, not after becoming a coach. The rest of his life brings in his victorious teams, the Four Horsemen, Joe Gipp, and wife Bonnie.

Throughout this show "O'Brien brings out Rockne as a man of character who never slips. He plays the part with a charm, stoicism, friendliness and inner goodness that won't quit. This show is worth a little extra effort to see.



MEET YOUR FRIENDS

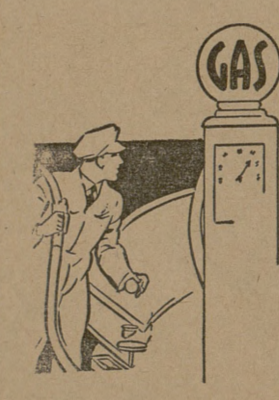
AT HRDLICKA'S

. . . the very place to bring your date for real fun.

Come out tonight and try our drinks and food.

HRDLICKA'S

Old College Road



Now is the time to gas up your car. The place is our convenient location. Our price will meet your pocket book.

Aggie Service Station One Block East of North Gate

BEST WISHES

A New Year always brings with it the promise of many hopes fulfilled, wishes granted, and all manner of good fortune. A New Year is beginning now, and we sincerely hope it will bring you everything worthwhile.

We appreciated your patronage during 1940, and hope to continue serving you during 1941.

THE EXCHANGE STORE

AN AGGIE INSTITUTION