

# The Battalion

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

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## Final Review An Impassioned Plea

THE FATE of final review hangs in the balance this Thursday when the faculty votes on the senior class petition for changing the date before final exams until after them. If the faculty votes the change, final review will be restored with all its significance and tradition; in case the faculty votes "no", final review will be killed as surely as if it were stabbed with a knife. The Battalion, the senior class—nay, the whole school—earnestly pleads with the faculty, "Please give us back final review as we knew it before last year."

The question is not a new one at all. For several years there have been some who have desired the ruling as it was made for last year. It was discussed at some length last year before the Student Welfare committee; it was discussed in the editorial columns of The Battalion; it has been considered once before at a meeting of the faculty this year, and several questions were raised last year.

In the first place, those who fostered last year's ruling made the claim that decreasing attendance at the function was slowly causing it to die a natural death. By leaving review as it was last year it will be killed outright with a single blow. The senior class can satisfy that argument with a 100 per cent attendance guarantee.

Those who are exempt in all their courses will be required to wait at school during exam week in order to participate. These students are one in a hundred. Surely the school policy is not to be determined upon the desires or necessities of one percent. These students voted with their classmates yesterday in an unanimous appeal for the change.

Grades last year were some five or ten per cent better than the year before. Those who argue for the review as it is slated urged this as a reason for leaving it as is. How could any thinking person be convinced that of all the factors to be considered in the fluctuations of grades, the date of final review was responsible for the increase? Then, too, the figures quoted were not the figures of the exam grades—they were semester grades. Final review could have had no effect on work during the semester.

Then comes the notice that juniors are due at camp on June 4. That is nothing new. Juniors last year were due at camp before school was out. The orders state that with appropriate excuse, the juniors may arrive as late as June 9. Final review is over at noon on June 7. No one, not even the Army, would expect them to get there before they were through school. We feel certain a note from President Walton would satisfy Eighth Corps Area headquarters.

The final objection concerns the senior class. Seniors are exempt from final exams and could be off to begin their jobs in place of waiting a week here at school. The senior class has answered that point very clearly—a unanimous vote to make the change.

Those who object must not understand the feeling that can cause 800 men to break into tears and cry unashamed. They can have no love for the school nor for the true Aggie spirit that can hold such a grip deep in the hearts of all who attend. Final review as it should be is the parting gesture—when the seniors say farewell to the four best years of their life. They can never hope to see all the same faces assembled again. It is the end. It is the transformation from student to ex-student. We must not be robbed of this.

Last year something was missing. The whole corps felt it. There was something wrong with bidding each other a last goodbye and then return for a week's more school. It's just not right.

Last year after the seniors left, sophomores and freshmen ran berserk, causing considerable damage to the halls and expense to their organizations. Without seniors, the same could happen again this year.

And speaking of decreasing attendance. What of the parents who drive down at the end of school to take their boy home for the summer vacation. Why should they come a week early for final review as it was last year? They will come when Johnny finishes his exams and therefore will miss final review and graduation festivities. Where is your attendance then?

Those who are against the change claim they are concerned with the student's benefit. Yesterday the entire student-body waived these benefits and stated that they would undergo any so-called sacrifices. Final review is the students' party, and for that reason The Battalion believes the students'

desires should be considered foremost.

At the time the junior class voted the new method last year they understood that it was a trial scheme only, and that if after it was held as it was done last year they did not like the method and did not think it satisfactory, it would be changed at their request. At the last meeting of the faculty, representatives of the senior class were told that no such agreement was made, and that formal petition would be necessary to effect the change.

The Battalion has this to say. Final review as it was held last year is utterly meaningless as far as students are concerned. It was just another review of which the corps underwent some half a dozen. Putting on a review is no particular enjoyment to those participating. Standing for two hours holding a rifle is no fun. Unless final review can be held at a time when it will have its full meaning, it is our opinion that there is no other excuse for having final review. If it will not fit in with the school's plans, why not just forget the whole idea. Why not forget there is such a thing as love for the school and for our associates.

The Battalion, the senior class, the whole cadet corps requests the faculty—either return to us final review as a flower in full bloom or else kill it altogether and let's bury it in some inconspicuous spot. But please, we beg of you, do not leave us with the derelict that was last year's experience.

## Man, Your Manners

BY I. SHERWOOD

The Behavior of a Gentleman

THE DICTIONARY SAYS "a gentleman is a well-bred and honorable man"—almost any man would like to be classed as a gentleman.

More than any rule of etiquette is the fundamental code of honor without strict observance of which no man can be considered a gentleman. The honor of a man depends on his word and the genuineness of his principles or he is not a gentleman.

A Gentleman Does Not—A gentleman does not, and a man who wishes to be one, does not borrow money from a friend except in unexpected circumstances, and money borrowed must be returned promptly. All money borrowed without security is a debt of honor which must be paid without fail and promptly. The debts incurred by a deceased parent, brother or sister are assumed by honorable men as a debt of honor.

One who is not well off does not "sponge" but pays his way as best he can; sponging is unpardonable. Don't consistently use others' cigarettes or let others pay the bills.

A gentleman never discusses his family affairs in public or with acquaintances. Nor does a gentleman show his letters from a lady to anyone else. No gentleman goes to a lady's house if he is affected by alcohol. A gentleman seeing another man who is intoxicated in the presence of ladies, should induce him to leave.

A gentleman will not be a climber or use others to gain favors; he is conservative and dignified and is not an extremist or non-conformist.

## As the World Turns...

BY DR. R. W. STEEN

THE WAR is getting all of the headlines, but events of interest to Texans are developing nearer home. The legislature has been in session for about six weeks, and in that time several matters of importance have been given much attention by that body. One item of interest to all users of the highways is the truck load limit law. As it now stands it limits the load to 7,000 pounds. This law not only limits the load but by interpretation also limits the size of the trucks. It has undoubtedly worked a hardship on Texas truck lines, and has perhaps resulted in certain areas paying higher freight rates than they would have paid had the law been different. The law was due largely to the lobbying power of the railroads, but the truck lines now seem able to care for themselves. From all appearances the limit will be raised to about 35,000 pounds. The truck lines asked for a 54,000 pound limit, but will doubtless be glad to compromise for 35,000 pounds.

Much attention has also been given to a new drivers license law. That some change is needed all will agree, as the present law is little more than a farce. It is not yet possible to say what the provisions of the new act will be, but there doubtless will be a new act. A carefully worked out drivers license law properly enforced, would be of great assistance in reducing the traffic toll on the highways.

A twelve grade school system has been proposed. Legislative committees are considering this proposal, and will probably look upon the proposal with favor. The scheme may have to wait a few more years though before being finally adopted. Many of the American states have a twelve grade system, and some of the Texas schools have twelve grades. The proposal now before the legislature would provide eight elementary grades and four high school grades.

Finally, there is the eternal matter of money. The crying need for more funds: funds to pay old age pensions, and operate the school system and colleges, and pay for the operation of the eleemosynary institutions and the prison system, and do the hundreds of other things the state has to do, will have to be met in some way. At present there are three proposals which are receiving serious consideration. There is a proposal for a state income tax. It has a good deal of support, but probably will not be adopted. Then there is the governor's plan of a 1.6% transaction tax. It probably has more support than the income tax, but it is as yet far from certain passage. Finally there is the proposal for a new omnibus tax. This would of course increase the levies on oil, sulphur and other natural resources, as well as place taxes on many other items. Judging by the past, it would seem that the omnibus tax plan is most apt to be adopted, but it may be that 1941 will be a year in which all rules are broken.



UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA STUDENTS HOLD A CONTEST EACH YEAR TO SELECT THE BACHELOR OF UGLINESS!

## BACKWASH

By George Fuernmann

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

Life Magazine at Texas A. & M. . . In the past three years, Life photographers have been on the A. & M. campus five times; twice to cover the annual Cotton Ball, once to cover polo at the college, once to take pics of A. & M. gridmen and this time to picture the annual Sophomore Ball and the accompanying National Defense Week events. Only once however, has a picture-story been published, and that was last Sept. when the football article was guided to the press by Don Burke. . . This time it seems to be reasonably certain that the article will be published. If so, it will probably be carried as one of the "Life Goes to a Party" series. However, the vastness of the corps' full-dress mounted review and the mass rally in Kyle Stadium last Friday may rate the pics a place as a news-feature. Either spot is fine, but the latter means two things more than a "party" coverage. To wit: Earlier publication and more space. . .

In the event the article is published—and it's ten-two-and-even that it will be—you can look for it March 21 if it goes as one of the "party" series; a week earlier, March 14 if it's placed as a news-feature. . . Selected by Life's representatives as a mythical "queen" of Friday night's Sophomore Ball was lovely, photogenic Ethel Marie Kelly, brown-eyed Houston beauty, who crossed things up by returning to her home town Saturday morning and thus not putting in the expected appearance for further photographing Saturday night.

Statistics Briefly: More than \$1000 was spent by the internationally-circulated picture mag in the three-day coverage of A. & M. last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. . . Approximately 400 pics were taken in that time. . . If any, between 10 and 25 of the pictures will be published. . . Shots were taken which showed a cross-section of the Aggie way of preparing for and going through a weekend, the highlight of which was an important ball. Flash globes did their flashing in the following order: At H. H. Hickman's Student Co-Op, showing two cadets "hocking" a radio in order to make financial connections for the weekend; at Holick's boot shop, showing a shine boy in the middle of a mess of senior dress boots as he was hustling to get the footwear ready in time for the ball; mass shots in Shiba Hall showing the cadet corps eating; at Law Hall, showing cadets vacating to make room for incoming T.S.C.W. girls; at Law Hall, showing cadets making corsages in connection with the floral concession held by A. D. Lasell; mass shots of all cadet officers; at the review of the cadet corps, taken on the ground and in the air; at the Kyle Stadium ceremony; at the Y.M.C.A. as the three buses arrived from T.S.C.W.; at the Sophomore Ball Friday night; at Franklin's and Hrdlicka's following the ball; close-ups of cadets and their dates on the campus throughout Saturday; at the Aggie-Rice basketball tilt Saturday night; at the Corps dance which followed the

game; at Law Hall as the T.S.C.W. girls embussed for Denton; and general shots over the entire campus showing typical examples of student life at A. & M.

## Nig and Don

From New York City came Don Burke, sports editor and editorial associate of Life. From Houston came Francis (Nig) Miller, top-notch photographer who has been with the publication since it was founded as a branch of Time and Fortune magazines.

The stories the pair can tell about the coverage they have made for Life in the past two years sound like excerpts from dime novels. Run-of-the-mill events to them, the yarns make for good blood-and-thunder, hell-for-leather listening to the average American.

Principal point of consternation to Nig is the fact that Texans seem to feel that because his home is in Houston he isn't a real honest-to-goodness, 24-careet Life representative. The genial photographer's favorite story in that connection concerns the time he called on an oil executive in Houston to plan for a series of shots on that industry.

"What!" the exec exclaimed when he learned that Nig wasn't from New York. "Just a damn local yokel!"

"Well, you see," Nig came back at him, "they send me out on the unimportant jobs."

The exec said no more.

Superstitious The truth is, however, Nig is one of Life's ace photographers and remains in Houston because that is a central point for the magazine's coverage.

Superstitious to the nth degree, he's a strong believer in his hunches regarding every shot he makes. On one occasion a black cat crossed his path as he was driving on the campus. Immediately he threw the car into reverse, backed to the corner and drove around the block to avoid crossing the cat's path.

Another time the writer dropped a comb out of his pocket. "Don't touch that comb," Nig cried. "Let me pick it up for you—it's bad luck to drop a comb and pick it up yourself."

In Aggie terms, Don and Nig were both "swell guys" and everyone who met either of them remarked about the fact.

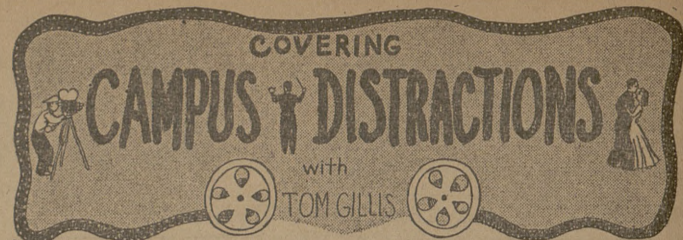
One picture, incidentally, of Cadet Colonel Bill Becker, has a cover chance, Nig said.

So now it's all-out waiting for Life magazines to hit the newsstands during March. Remember, the article probably will be published, but don't be too disappointed if it isn't. There's a war and a new set of quadruplets to offer competition.

Because President Ernest Hopkins feels the "white collar" aspect of higher education has been over-emphasized, Dartmouth college has a student workshop this semester.

There are 3,286 home demonstration club women and 2,578 D-H Club girls enrolled in 16 counties of Extension Service District 2.

Mattresses made in Cherokee County under the 1940 cotton mattress demonstration program totaled 2,140.



"THE LETTER" is one of those Bette Davis triumphs which fairly drips with drama. It has her doing several things besides just getting mad, popping her eyes, and drawing down the corners of her mouth. And before the show is over she'll have the audience hating her with a purple passion for being such a despicable liar and unfaithful wife.

The show really starts off with a bang, several of them in fact, as Betty empties a pistol into the body of her former lover. The rest of the show concerns the events leading up to and after her trial for this murder. The latter comes in as the one piece of evidence which will prove her infidelity to her husband and convict her of a murder charge too. It takes her husband's entire fortune, finally his faith, and the scruples of a good lawyer to keep the matter out of court.

The motions of the plot in this show are practically nil. The story is unfolded by explanations and drama, of which it has plenty. James Stephenson, as the honest lawyer but better friend, comes plenty close to swiping some scenes from master-star Davis. He's a man to notice. Bette's weak and trusting husband is Herbert Marshall and Bette seems all the more low down for trifling on such a trustful soul.

All the actors play their characters with such a clarity that one can see the type from the first minute. Bette is a clever, sly, neurotic wife and the other definite types can be seen just as plainly. The sum total of the effect of this show will probably be depressing but it is highly recommended for heavy and haunting drama and excellent acting.

The film presented by the Campus Film Club two weeks ago was such that it is now brought back as a regular feature for those who didn't get to see it. It is the British film "NIGHT TRAIN," and it builds up enough suspense to drive a good man mad.

It is a spy story dealing with a British scientist in Czecho-Slovakia who knows how to make armor plate. The present war breaks out and there proceeds to be a highly exciting battle between British and German secret agents to get possession of the old fellow. The suspense of whether the British will get his knowledge or not is so cleverly built up that it is positively nerve-frazzling. It is made more so by two provincial Englishmen who stop in the most tense moments to wrangle over such trivial matters. The actors are relatively unfamiliar but good Britishers.

Even including a little English propaganda, this picture is an ed-

## WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Tuesday 3:30 & 6:45—"MEN AGAINST THE SKY," with Richard Dix, Kent Taylor, Edmund Lowe and Wendy Barrie.

Wednesday, Thursday 3:30 & 6:45—"THE LETTER," starring Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall, James Stephenson, Frieda Inescort and Gale Sondergaard.

AT THE CAMPUS

Tuesday—"THE WITNESS VANISHES," with Edmund Lowe and Wendy Barrie.

Wednesday, Thursday—"NIGHT TRAIN," featuring Margaret Lockwood, Rex Harrison and Paul von Hernal.

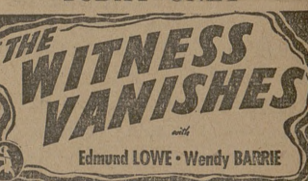
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## CAMPUS

15c to 5 p.m. — 20c after

TODAY ONLY



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—also—

Cartoon - Sports

Tomorrow and Thursday

Margaret Lockwood  
Rex Harrison  
—in—

"Night Train"  
—also—

Selected Short Subjects

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