

The Battalion

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

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas...

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$3 a school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Office, Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone 4-5444.

1940 Member 1941 Associated Collegiate Press

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Let's KILL an Aggie-Murder's a Better Word! THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS at its regular meeting Saturday passed, among others, two resolutions relative to traffic control on the A. & M. campus.

"That the commandant be instructed to continue the rigid enforcement of traffic regulations on the campus; that all employees of the college be requested to cooperate with the commandant and the administrative officers of the college in making the traffic regulations established by the board effective."

"... continue the rigid enforcement," the resolution says. That is just what it means.

The commandant, through authority vested in him by the president of the college, set a 20-mile speed limit on the campus. Immediately thereafter, criticism, principally from college employees and faculty members, was heaped up on the commandant's head.

Criticism of the principle behind the rule is entirely unjust, and the board's resolution supports this contention. But what is behind the new speed limit and the board resolution? There are two well-founded reasons for this regulation.

First of all, the board of directors and the commandant are trying to protect cadets and other pedestrians on the campus. More than 10,000 persons live in this community during the long session, and in such a small area it is altogether feasible to foresee serious accidents unless some traffic regulation is instituted.

Second, the traffic regulation represents a form of protection—even a sort of insurance—to the motorists themselves. It is the type of insurance that guards motorists against the tragedy of injuring or killing someone. Those critics of the principle behind the resolution might think of the thing this way: that the resolution is as much protection to them as to anyone else.

There have been, too, complaints about the nature and manner of enforcing this measure. The Battalion has this suggestion—that over-rigid enforcement be limited to the more congested areas of the campus and in between-class intervals. The element of common sense must be used in the enforcement of any rule; this one is no exception. To avoid injuring pedestrians is the purpose of the statute; therefore it would seem that the area in which there are people walking to and from classes, is the area that needs the protection of strict patrolling and rigid enforcement.

But any amount of reckless driving is too much. No human life is worth the saving of five minutes. It is right and just that every effort be made and every step be taken to prevent the needless usurping of human life.

It may be that all the features of the new resolution are not entirely desirable, but after all it has been in effect only a week. The men enforcing the measure must adapt themselves to their new task as must local citizens adapt themselves to compliance with the new measure.

The commandant announces the resolution is to be vigorously enforced. It is expedient to cooperate.

Something To Read

BY DR. T. F. MAYO WITH THE formidable exception of William Faulkner, every American novelist worth reading today is deeply concerned in his stories with this question: To what extent and why does capitalism fail to make a good life economically available to everybody in this rich America?

To consider the exception first: Faulkner, finding "a sickness at the roots of things," doesn't lay the blame, apparently, on anything so superficial as an economic set-up. Man to him is just a cursed animal (see "The Hamlet"), and there is nothing to be done about it.

and the River," "The Web and the Rock," "You Can't Go Home Again"; Ernest Hemingway ("The Sun Also Rises," "A Farewell to Arms," "For Whom the Bell Tolls").

Now it seems to me that this surprising agreement among novelists (that you can't write an honest story today without showing how the economic set-up affects your characters) is an encouraging sign of the times. It's true that most of their books are exceedingly blue about the social system. But even so, it is encouraging in itself to see popular novelists concerning themselves about such matters. What the novelists think about today, the great public will think about tomorrow. And we have all thought for a long time that a democracy will work only if its great public do think earnestly and analytically about its economic underpinnings. Heretofore, Americans have on the whole been concerned about economic matters only in the sense of trying to win a game. Now, it would seem, we are beginning as a nation to examine critically the rules of the game.

This is one reason why the popularity on our campus of these novelists is a favorable sign. After all, you who graduate from A. & M. will be, by virtue of your technical skill, highly influential people. Only if you have formed the habit of pondering over the economic and social arrangements under which we all live will your influences be exerted thoughtfully.

Quotable Quotes

"UNQUESTIONING obedience under all circumstances is not the supreme virtue in a democracy. On the other hand, obedience under appropriate conditions is essential to co-ordinated group activity, without which civilization could not exist." The American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education declares that democracy demands two types of citizenship—conforming and contributing.

—Associated Collegiate Press

As the World Turns...

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

COLLEGE STUDENTS are interested in the current war. Many of them are of military age and subject to the draft act. Some of them are sons of veterans of the last World War and know the influence that war had on their fathers. And some are vitally concerned about their future. In the classroom and out of it, our students make many inquiries about the current war. Such questions as these indicate their interest in the war:

- (1) "When will the United States declare war on Germany?"; (2) "What are England's war aims?"; (3) "Will England pay to us the debts of this war"; and (4) "Will there be another depression after this war?". Here are some essential points on each of the above questions.

1. Many people still think in terms of formal declaration of war—a time-honored international practice. The totalitarian states have disregarded this convention. They make demands on a country, if they are not satisfied with the reply, they invade the country. Besides, before the invasion takes place, they subsidize murder, sabotage, bribery, arson and treason in the country which they take over. We need not make a formal declaration of war on Germany. There is not, as yet, a necessity for us to send men to Europe. We can keep on helping the democracies and still remain nominally at peace with Germany. As public opinion against Germany gathers momentum, the President might break diplomatic relations with Germany and even ask Congress for a declaration of war. The Lend-Lease Bill brings us closer to war with Germany, specially, if the Germans destroy our American ships, acting as convoy of war materials for England.

2. England's war aims are in the realm of speculation. English officials have discreetly refused to commit themselves on the subject. The war was forced on England. At least, that is the way English put it. Obviously, then, England's chief interest is a victory over Germany. Some English intellectuals are advocating a much stronger League of Nations with the United States as one of its leading members. Many Englishmen want to restore the occupied countries to full independence with territories, where possible, annexed from Germany. They aim to weaken Germany so that she will not bring about another war. Another suggestion is that there should be a world-wide agreement as to trade, finance, and other vital international problems.

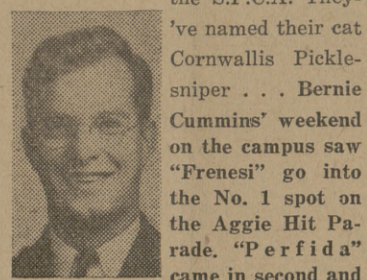
3. So far England has not borrowed money from the United States. She has spent nearly two and a half billion dollars on war materials here. As the war continues, England might find it necessary to borrow from us. Sir Edward Peacock, a director of the Bank of England, and Sir Frederick Phillips, under Secretary of British Treasury, are in the United States to handle war financing matters. The British plan to sell some of their industries here and buy war materials. British Government holds large blocks of securities (stocks and bonds) in American enterprises. These might be used as collateral for debts. Benjiman Cohen, a "New Deal Thinker" is in London to arrange and supervise whatever financial agreements might be necessary. Of course, whether we want to drive hard bargains or not on the English, it remains to be seen.

4. Depressions are frequent epidemics in the United States. The present administration is making a study of possible post war problems. Large scale layoffs from factories after the war are being considered. A nation-wide dismissal wage, made up by contributions from the employer and the employee, is planned. Plans are under way for "Socially useful public works," and the expansion of the Social Security program as well as the Food Stamp agencies. The farmer is of special concern of the New Deal planners. The government is watching closely the commodity and financial exchanges and would not allow a stampede for a get-rich-quick. A super New Deal is in the making. And we might be able to steer away from a post war depression.

BACKWASH

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

Touch and Go... An Aggie senior, about to cut a class, "What's the difference? I'd just as soon be ignorant cannon fodder as the educated kind!"... Two San Antonio lovelies, Gloria Clements and Jane Leascher, may soon be indicted by the S.P.C.A. They've named their cat Cornwallis Picklesniper... Bernie Cummins' weekend on the campus saw "Frenesi" go into the No. 1 spot on the Aggie Hit Parade. "Perfidia" came in second and last week's first-place song, "Star Dust," dropped to third as the mythical rating entered its second week... Behind the scenes on a recent Backwash item which quoted a letter allegedly received by a cadet from Linda Darnell asking him to escort her to the forthcoming Ross Volunteer dances, the facts are these: Charles Haggard is the cadet who received the valid appearing letter which was "arranged" by a classmate through a California-residing uncle. Quoth Chas.—"I was wizenuped about the joke in advance, but pretended to go under by faking a telegram of acceptance and wiring flowers."... Russ Morgan, who maestered the Field Artillery Ball not so many weekends ago, is currently airing his music via NBC at 11:30 each night from Hollywood's Paladium where he took Glen Gray's spot... A little-noticed fact in last weekend's news was the fact that the board of directors, at its regular meeting Saturday, made no change in the freeguest ruling it passed for an experimental period at its December meeting. Although 3000 guests filed through the mess hall portals last month, the board made no move—and possibly will not make one—to change the cadet-desired status quo.



Fuermann place song, "Star Dust," dropped to third as the mythical rating entered its second week...

Aggies compared Jeri's work with the job Connie did last year, and Connie, be it remembered, was one of the best in the business. "Was" is the word, because Connie left Bernie last fall to get married to a wealthy Florida airplane manufacturer. Jeri works for \$70 a week—a figure only \$5 less than Russ Morgan's Phyllis Lynn receives, but Bernie may have stretched the ante a little as he seemed reluctant to say anything about his vocalist's wage-earning.

Between the Halves

Bernie's intermission stage show is unusual with dance bands on the road, but it's still another reason for the orchestra's popularity at A. & M. Similar to the show he used last year, many cadets pointed out that the 30-minute stage show was the principal reason they attended the Saturday night corps dance.

Tops in the stage show was drummer Fred Benson whose "Twilight in Turkey" arrangement brought the house down. When Fred gets going strong, even the rest of the orchestra members start watching the performer.

Equally as good was comedian Chet James, 35-years old, a native of Denver, Colorado, and a regular fellow on, as well as off, the stage. The average age of the men in Bernie's orchestra, incidentally, is about 35, most of them are married and, as mentioned before, many of them have been with the band over a long period of time; pianist Karl Radlach, 14 years and violinist Paul Miller, 13 years are two good examples.

Backwashin'

Some cadets were chagrined because Jeri couldn't dance with them as could Russ Morgan's singer, Phyllis Lynne. "The reason for that," Bernie pointed out, "is that I don't believe such a policy is a good one; such a thing occasionally leads to trouble, and that is something an orchestra is always out to avoid."... Beginning March 28 the orchestra begins a six-week run at Chicago's Edgewater Beach Hotel, one of the nation's top dance spots... Saturday night March 22, the orchestra will appear on the national network Lucky Strike program... Bernie's only hobby, outside of sports, which is an all-the-way affair with him, seems to be punning. Example:

Bertha Nell Koenig Public Stenographer Dial 4-4244 Casey-Burgess Bldg. College Station, Texas

Still Excellent

How excellent will not be shown definitely until the committee adds up the results of the Backwash poll at the end of the social season, but by any measuring stick, Bernie Cummins and orchestra represents a grade 'A' music-making outfit.

Like most name band musicians, his men average \$90 a week and unlike most top-notch bands, many of his men have been with him 13 and 14 years—a fact, incidentally, which accounts for a large part of his organization's excellence.

Not nearly so good, however, as his vocalist of last year (Connie Barlean), Jeri Sullivan was only average as a singer and otherwise. The principal trouble was that most



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COVERING CAMPUS DISTRACTIONS with TOM GILLIS

The rifle team has picked a very militaristic feature for their benefit show. It is "THE LION HAS WINGS," in which the British lion tries to roar like an airplane engine. The show was produced in Britain by private capital and released after having been censored by the Ministry of Information.

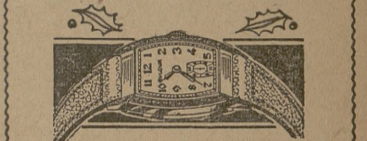
Anything that is released by the Ministry of Information for American showing is sure to be excellent propaganda, and this is. The idea seems to be to show American audiences that England has now built up air defenses which can take care of the situation. It does this by showing in greater than ordinary detail the workings of their defense system and even a couple of good attacks made by the RAF.

The actors and thread of plot used to explain this system include Merle Oberon and three actors who are actually in the armed

The word "neuter" entered the conversation. Quoth Bernie: "He neuter because he told me he did."

... One Coast Artilleryman seemed to hit the keynote of student opinion when he said that, "What I like about Cummins is the way his band goes from one number to another without interruption."

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C. W. Varner JEWELER North Gate

BEFORE THE DANCE AFTER THE DANCE -- ANY TIME It's The DELUXE CAFE "Always Open" —BRYAN—

Advertisement for Western Electric cleaning and pressing services. Includes image of a woman holding a sign that says 'CLEANING and PRESSING' and text: 'Only one thing missing! BUT it's plenty important! In the telephone business, not just one, but thousands of important items of equipment must be distributed throughout the country when and where needed. Seeing to it that everything used in the Bell System is always on hand has long been the responsibility of Western Electric. So has making the equipment and buying the material, as well as distributing them throughout the nation. Western Electric thus plays its part in enabling you to reach your party quickly and at low cost, whenever you telephone. Western Electric is back of your Bell Telephone service'