

# The Battalion Something To Read

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

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## An Open Letter

Youth Committee Against War  
22 17th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Sirs:

We have been the unhappy recipient of some of your communist propaganda—too much.

Can't you misguided intellectuals realize what will happen to our country in the event of an Axis victory? Can't you realize what benefits would come from a British victory? Can't you realize that the President is doing all in his power to bring about such a victory without involving this country? Can't you realize that all your dissension is a wrench in the works of the country's progress?

Certainly no one wants to go to war—no Gallup poll was needed to decide that fact. But in the case this is necessary, he would be a poor citizen indeed who would deny the country his services in its time of need. Is your group merely ignorant or is it a group of non-patriots working toward the country's destruction?

Do you not realize that you are the most valuable men in the country—for Hitler?

Henceforth all propaganda from your source, unless a personal answer to this letter, will be promptly filed—in the trash basket.

The Battalion

## Nothing Like a War

INDUSTRIAL CHANGES as well as economic and political changes are brought about by wars—particularly in modern warfare. Such a tendency is naturally hastened when a manufacturing nation is suddenly plunged into so vast a program of war production as we are in now.

We are immediately driven to find new materials for purposes of both war and peace to take the place of those most needed for military uses—such as aluminum, rubber, tin and copper. So we are getting into an Age of Plastics which may supplant to a large extent the Age of Metals. For many purposes even iron and steel will give way to substances produced from milk, soy beans, cellulose, resin and several other substances. These materials can be made as tough and strong as iron, in spite of their lightness, and applied to an apparently unlimited range of products and purposes. In many ways this change of Age will not be a hardship but a blessing as far as progress is concerned.

Thus we may have, before the war is over, automobiles with plastic bodies and fenders, lighter and perhaps safer than present cars. Not the least of these benefits will be a considerable lessening of crumpled bodies and fenders. Also less vibration, less rust, more visibility, more safety in accidents and better radio reception.

Many other good things will be an outgrowth of this war of destruction!

## 1961, A. D.

IT IS QUITE QUIET now, this early in the morning. A few brazen little birds are piping thinly.

Those old bricks? Yes, they were probably a building once. University buildings? Most probably. There's no one now who quite remembers . . .

The quiet grey moss includes its way through the mortar and plans gradually to engulf the area. Nearby stands the shattered stump of an old fir tree. The atmosphere is eating away its fibers. Were there lots of buildings then? Were there lawns and walks and roses in the sunshine? See, here is a bit of an old cement pathway. It crumbles if you step on it.

There is a certain softness about the day yet. The mists are lifting, the air is cooling to the cheek. But everywhere it is so quiet.

Were there many people here then? Didn't they laugh and talk to one another? Didn't they care about the lovely old buildings?

The water in the mill stream chortles as you slap it with a little stone. It is muddy green and flows passively on its way. It is used to being left alone. There are not boats floating on its back.

Why aren't there any boats? What happened to all the people and buildings? Why did they simply leave? Didn't they have any air raid shelters at all?

The sun is coming out now. Listen, the little birds are singing louder.

—P. E. in the Oregon Daily Emerald—ACP

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

The Way of Things . . . Watch for an announcement in an early edition of The Battalion concerning a unique musical comedy to be sponsored—believe it or not—by the Student Engineering Council.

Praxy Ben Elliott, one of the leaders in the unprecedented stage show, is still non-committal, but indications are that the production will be tops in an entertainment way and will be staged in Guion Hall during the annual Engineering Day Activities in May . . . An Aggie senior was standing outside of the Aggie Inn Tuesday morning when a tall, distinguished looking civilian walked out of the Inn, turned to the cadet and said, "This is a wonderful college here . . . A wonderful place . . . One of the finest institutions it has ever been my pleasure to visit."

The amazed Aggie was too surprised to reply to the stranger's deeply sincere comment; was even more surprised when he later learned that the gentleman was a language professor at Notre Dame. Edward H. Gavin by name, his home is in Chicago and while on the campus he visited G. A. Carlsen, Cavalryman from Lima, Peru . . . Ele Baggett, former Longhorn editor who was seriously injured in a hunting accident during the Christmas holidays, has returned to the campus and expects to be here throughout the remainder of the current semester . . . One of the comic side-lights of the recent junior class debate concerning the wearing of military boots next year went almost unnoticed. Meaning the cadet who got up out of the audience, walked up to the stage and finally made his way to the microphone—without his pants. Thusly attired in a shirt and shorts, he commented, "Well, Army, they've taken everything else away from me; now they've got my pants!"

Not being an R. V., Backwash was at a loss to know how to cover the dances where the Backwash orchestra poll is concerned. Tommy Henderson, genial Field Artilleryman and The Battalion's circulation manager, took over where the writer left off and here's his report.

The win, place and show spots on the Aggie Hit Parade went to "Ceilia," "There'll Be Some Changes Made" and "It All Comes Back to Me Now." Tommy said. Significant is the fact that "Star Dust" did not show for the first time this social season. "Ceilia" is a newcomer and "It All Comes Back to Me Now" was No. 1 last week.

## Levant & Co.

An 11-piece orchestra plus a feminine vocalist, Phil's band probably will share the same fate as last year's R. V. band—Al Kavelin. It's almost impossible for the R. V. band to place high on the poll ratings because not enough of the corps had an opportunity to hear the band. At last Saturday night's Corps dance, for example, 16 couples and five stags were in attendance.

## R. C. A. F. Again

A. & M. cadets are rapidly swelling the ranks of the Canadian Royal Air Force. Back of this is the fact that admission to the R.C.A.F. is easier than to the U. S. Air Corps—mainly because of lenient physical requirements, the spirit of adventure and the reasonably substantial pay offered by the Canadians.

Of Bob Groulx Backwash has already written considerable. Three others who started out at the same time are Bentley Clements, Jack Garner and Bill Tyler.

Although the four stuck pretty close during the first three months of their Canadian sojourn, they have lately become widely separated. Bentley writes:

"Jack has already become a flying instructor if things went as they should have. Bill was sent out as a pilot but ran out of gas over a restricted area and, because of the resulting crash-landing, has been 'washed-out.' However, he was later sent out as an air gunner and he should have his sergeant's stripes and wings. By the time you receive this letter Jack will probably be in either England or Africa raising hell with Benie and Adolph."

## B. Clements

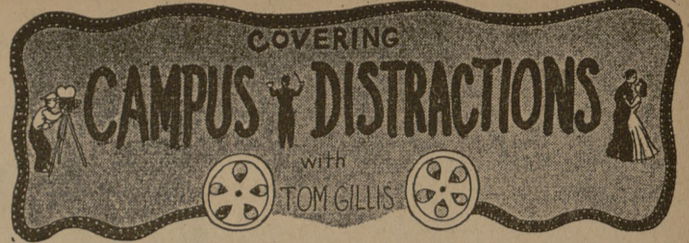
Bentley is a sort of jack-of-all-trades where the R.C.A.F. is concerned. As he put it, "a general flunkie who helps pilot bombers." Officially, he's an observer, navigator, pilot, bombardier and gunner—which is nice work if you can't avoid it!

Bentley expects to receive his wings and stripes by June 1 and hopes to join Bill overseas soon thereafter. Bob and Jack will remain on this side of the Atlantic as instructors.

"Nearly 100 per cent of the men here from the States," Ben writes, are anxious to be sent to England or Africa. You can't possibly imagine how anxious these men are to get into action without witnessing the thing yourself. None of them think that they will die, either, and their principal goal is to bring down their first German or Italian plane."

## The R. V. Dances

Blessed with a lovely queen, an excellent orchestra and perfect weather, the Ross Volunteers and their escorts probably hit a new high this year where their annual spring dances are concerned. Saturday afternoon the orchestra members and nine R.V.'s mixed



An old show but a good one is going to be at the Campus Friday and Saturday. "GUNGA DIN" has played here twice before and in all our home towns, but it has been shown around so much only because it is pretty good. The old Indian native who plays the part of Gunga Din himself goes un-

honed as far as having his name on the cast, etc., goes but his diaper-clothed figure is one that won't slip your mind too easily. And the way his face literally beams when he is given some military importance shows good acting. Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen, and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. make up a daredevil trio until Joan Fontaine almost hooks Doug.

"ARISE MY LOVE" at the Assembly Hall today is just a pleasant little comedy which plays against a background of the present situation in Europe. The background reads like last year's newspapers through a Spanish prison camp, the declaration of war, sinking the Athena, the French armistice and some small incidents in between. Through it all Ray Milland and Claudette Colbert keep up a running romance and newspaper story with some gag lines thrown in.

Everyone remembers the kind of light comedy that won Claudette the Academy Award in "It Happened One Night," and this is more of the same. Milland isn't so bad himself. They keep up a whirlwind romance through all the disturbance and end returning to the United States to make another familiar plea for preparedness.

Not on the campus but a pleasant and different type of diversion may be found at the carnival in Bryan the rest of this week. It is off to the left of the old highway as you approach Bryan and its sideshows and other attractions are something different from the ordinary entertainment around here.

Another show that is good but has actually played here before within the last 30 days is "SANTA FE TRAIL" at the Campus. For it Errol Flynn, Olivia deHavilland

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Every operator  
in this  
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Each operator in San Francisco's Chinatown telephone exchange must speak English plus at least three of the five Chinese dialects—Som Yup, Soy Yup, Heong Sow, Gow Gong and Aw Duck—in order to handle calls. For the average Chinese understands no dialect but his own!

Since there is no Chinese alphabet, the 36 page directory, listing 2200 subscribers, can't be printed in the usual way. It is handwritten—then reproduced by engraving and printing processes. Subscribers are listed by streets, instead of alphabetically. And operators must almost know the book by heart, for the Chinese seldom call by number—but by name and address.

Here is a Bell System exchange that in many ways is unique. But it is just like thousands of others in giving good service to telephone users.





Towncraft\* Leads the Shoe Parade with Men's Two-Tone Brown SPORTS OXFORDS 3.98

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\*Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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