

# The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

TEXAS A. &amp; M. COLLEGE

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## Ending Fish Year

SINCE THERE ARE to be no more official fish days, why doesn't every organization drop "handles" on names now after Parent's Day?

It has always been customary for such an event to occur after fish day in different organizations, but even without fish days, it is important that the Aggie reputation of friendliness be maintained. And it is time the freshmen and upperclassmen became better acquainted with each other on equal terms. For nearly nine months now the Class of '44 has served in the capacity of freshmen, by far the greater part of future contact between the classes is to be on the equal terms of upperclassmen, and dropping Mister and Fish from names would do much to promote the unity of the classes.

This is the last month that all these freshmen and upperclassmen will be together on the campus, and the seniors want to know their room-orderlies and other fish by a more appropriate term than just Fish So-and-so when they happen to meet again during life. This will be their only chance to gain such close friendship before they are called by other duties. The upperclassmen other than seniors also want to begin to know their freshmen more intimately before another fish class arrives in all its seemingly uncontrollable numbers.

Dropping handles will make easier the task of next year's cadets who have begun to take over their positions now. In many organizations it regularly happens at this time of year that each class is prepared for the responsibilities they will bear next year by giving them those responsibilities now. This gives the future officers and upperclassmen experience in their positions while still under the watchful and helpful eyes of the seniors. And if this year's freshmen are to consider discharging their responsibility as sophomores for next year, it would be well if they became more informally acquainted with other upperclassmen now and consequently their duty of leading future freshmen.

It would not be contrary to any traditions to drop handles on names at this time of year. On the other hand, it would be in keeping with a tradition which is now non-existent. This last month is a valuable time during which next year's upperclassmen should become more intimately associated as friends without the formality which regular freshman conduct requires.

Dropping handles could be accomplished simply by a ruling of the organization commander. Many organizations have already given the freshmen their customary privileges since the Parents' Day review. The others should do so.

## Annual Engineer's Review

THE ENGINEER'S DAY MUSICAL REVIEW was another "first" event for this year that should become an annual feature of that day. It is an excellent addition to an already packed day because it provides entertainment of a different sort and an opportunity for student development.

Credit for the idea of the show itself and the parts of the show belongs to the cadets. With the exception of the dean of the school of engineering, all the actors were students who originated and presented their acts. Such an opportunity for student initiative and the display of their talent should not be passed up in later years, particularly after seeing what excellent talent was presented at their show this year.

Considerable originality was shown in the presentation of the acts by all the engineering departments, and all was coordinated and directed by students. The review demonstrates that engineers do many things that can't be worked out by a slide rule formula, and should be a permanent part of the Engineer's Day show.

Five mathematics courses at University of Texas have been rearranged to tie in more closely with problems relating to defense.

The music library at Mills college contains more than 6,000 phonograph records.

Forty first additions of Joel Harris are the latest addition to the Harris Memorial room in the Emory university library.

A history student, roaming through the halls of Centenary college, found an inscription that Centenary was founded in 1825.

## Man, Your Manners

BY I. SHERWOOD

CADETS AT A. & M. are carefully trained in discipline and in the official and social duties of a military school, but many of the Seniors will be entering the Army of the United States as officers, in June, and a thorough knowledge of the social customs of the Service is essential; such a knowledge will give the young officer confidence in himself and save him from embarrassing situations.

The following is taken from Official Courtesy and Customs of the Service.

Calls: For all posts in the United States calling hours are from 8:00 to 9:00 in the evening. It is permissible to call on Sunday afternoon between three and five o'clock. This practice differs from civil life where calls are usually made in the afternoon.

An officer arriving at a post at which he expects to remain longer than twenty-four hours should call on the post commander. If assigned to duty there, he should call on all his intermediate commanders. If unable to wear a uniform, an explanation should be made. This official visit to the post and intermediate commanders should be repeated at their residences within twenty-four hours after arrival. If the commander is married, it is the custom for the officer making the visit to be accompanied by his wife. The calls are formal and should not last longer than ten minutes.

It is not necessary for the new arrival to make other calls until officers of the battalion, regiment or garrison have called on him.

It is customary for officers to call on a new arrival as soon as he is situated. If the newcomer is married, ladies call with their husbands.

Cards should be returned within ten days.

Calling Cards: In the service do not neglect the conventions in the use of visiting cards. At receptions, teas or similar functions it is customary to leave a card for each person in whose name the invitation is extended and for the guest of honor, if there is one.

A bachelor, or a married officer not accompanied by his wife, leaves one card for the officer called upon and one for each adult member of the officer's household.

Social Functions: It is customary for officers of all grades to dance or chat with the wives of the senior officers of the unit.

A member of a dinner party later attending a dance should not fail to dance with the hostess and the guest of honor.

Invitations to dinners and private functions, when accepted, constitute social obligations and should be returned.

## Quotable Quotes

"Fear keeps many teachers, none too bold at best, from voicing what they know to be true about the society that surrounds them, or the history they are supposed to interpret. Most of them are not fighters. They are experts on information, with a desire to let alone in their work. So when their opinions are disapproved, their position and experience are not such as can resist intimidation. The young scholar learns early he can succeed best by silence. There is little academic freedom in the sense of the right to teach without institutional coercion or censorship of personal faiths." Author Leon Whipple, in his "Story of Civil Liberties in the United States".

—Associated Collegiate Press

## As the World Turns..

BY R. W. STEEN

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WILL ADDRESS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE on Wednesday evening. There was a time when these talks were described as "fireside chats" but conditions have now become so serious that no such matter of fact title will serve. The way for Mr. Roosevelt has been carefully paved, and it is to be expected that he will tell the American public something about the immediate part to be played by America in the war.

Three weeks ago Secretary Hull declared that American aid to Britain must reach its destination. On the same day Secretary Knox declared that we could not permit American goods to be sunk in the Atlantic. A week later Wendell Willkie called for the use of American convoys. A few days later Secretary Stimson called for the use of the American navy in making the seas safe for the delivery of war materials to Britain. Late last week Senator Pepper, who is frequently an administrative spokesman, made an address to the Senate in which he urged that America "get tough" with the dictators. He proposed that such strategic bases as Dakar, the Azores, and Singapore be immediately occupied.

With these speeches as a background it will be surprising if President Roosevelt does less than announce that American naval vessels will be used in an effort to guarantee the arrival of planes and supplies in Britain. Public opinion has moved so far in the past few weeks that the opponents of convoys are now apparently afraid to bring the issue to a vote in the Senate.

The race for the Senate seat left vacant by the death of Morris Sheppard is attracting much attention. Twelve candidates have announced their willingness to serve, and most observers are still of the opinion that Governor O'Daniel will soon add his name to the list. The biggest splash of the past week was made by Hal Collins of Mineral Wells, who began his campaign in Waco. He was not content with a hillbilly band, but had a whole medicine show. There was a master of ceremonies who introduced musical numbers, singers, and comedians. To cap it all a mattress was given to the largest family attending the meeting. The winning family marched fourteen children onto the platform. Mr. Collins doubtless wishes that children could vote.

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## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Backwashin' Around . . . Unique in the realm of Mothers' Day telegrams was the one sent by an Infantry senior which read, "The Italians believe that Benito is; the Squareheads swear by Adolph, but he's our country American who

knows darn well that his mother is the greatest person in the world." . . . Backwash, under its current by-line, goes to press for the last time Saturday. When the writer signs '30' that day, Charles Babcock will tentatively take up the

reins. The column's full-time writer for the forth-coming long session will not be announced until late this month when editor

term Tom Gillis names his new staff . . . As predicted here last

week, the first annual Engineers' Musical Review was a tremendous, howling success. Packed with gags

and giggles, it sent a near-capacity audience away hungry for more and was easily a top-notch item in

the current college year's list of Aggie-talent entertainment events.

The show was so successful that tentative plans call for an encore

this month, a possible performance at Texas A. & U. and, most

important of all, one enthusiastic witness (who has the ways and

means to back him up) says that he'll place next year's review on

the stages of the largest theaters in Houston and Dallas. Producers

Walter Sullivan and Ben Elliott, plus a capable, ambitious staff,

did an All-American job on the

show which now takes a well-

deserved place among the college's annual and much-to-be-looked-forward-to events . . . Watch for

T. S. C. W. freshman Connie Lindley (she was queen of this year's Cotton Ball) to go a long way in

the Aggie world during her remaining three years in college. She,

and Fort Worth's attractive Dorothy Hamm, were pointed out by

Maestro Al Donahue this past

week end as "the two most attractive girls I've seen in many a

dance" . . . Still another addition

to the fast-growing list of Aggie

hitch-hiking benches is serving ca-

dets. The McLennan County A. &

M. Mothers' club (Waco) has made

and painted two benches, each 20

feet long, which they have placed

at the intersection of the Waco loop.

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A. Donahue - Tops

Seldom is cadet opinion so thoroughly grooved where a "name" swing band is concerned as during the past week end. There's little question but that Al Donahue's outfit will ride the No. 1 spot on the A. & M. orchestra poll when it is tabulated Thursday night.

An all-the-way success at both the Senior Ring dance and Saturday night's corps dance, many of the seniors felt that Al's band was the finest to hit the campus in the past three years.

A graduate of Boston U.'s law school, his career as a band leader has been an off-and-on affair. He led his first band in 1929 and, until four years ago, crossed his baton with Blackstone and a law practice . . . which makes his success as an orchestra leader something more than just unique.

"The Board of Directors of A. & M. college endorses 100 per cent the items in the House bill setting up \$28,600 for each year of the coming biennium for a graduated school at Prairie View," Law said. "While the graduate school will be set up primarily in the field of arts and sciences, \$10,000 of the funds provided will be used for purchase of books for the library, which is used by all the men and women students at Prairie View institution.

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"In addition to this amount, there is included \$25,000 yearly for the first two years of basic medicine study, which we can give by addition of three or four new courses at Prairie View.

"While the House bill does not so-called 'band' bands which played on ocean-going passenger vessels.

The current war situation, of course, has gigged him out of most of these and, today, only five are in service.

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Are Ya, or Aren't Ya?

Vocalist Dee Keating was also

tops in Aggie opinion.

Twenty-two years old, she told different stories about her private life. To Sophomore Charles Walker she said she was married; to Jimmy Joy she said she wasn't.

Back of that is a much fixed-up affair, and your guess is as good as anyone else's. Maestro Al pointed out that two weeks before the orchestra arrived at A. & M. Dee and one of his three trombonists (Hank Maddeleena) were secretly married.

Al's story sounds like the truth—because he was much worried as to whether or not her marriage would hurt the band's drawing power.

At any rate, the situation resulted in one of the best gags of the year at the Senior Ring banquet.

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COVERING  
**CAMPUS DISTRACTIONS**  
with  
TOM GILLIS

Another picture named for