

The Battalion *Something to Read*

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

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Change Dorm Assignments

THE UNITY OF THIS CADET CORPS can be seriously threatened next year if some changes are not made, and surely the unity for which Aggies are famous is worth preserving. That unity can be safeguarded by changing the regimental dormitory assignments for next year so that different organizations will be living together in the two areas.

The famed unity for which the A. & M. cadets have been known for so long has always been because of the fact that they knew so many of their fellow students. They lived in dormitories together, ate together, and fought together. When 5000 Aggies lived within 200 yards of the old bugle stand, as was the case prior to 1939, no Aggie could help knowing many other cadets in all regiments of the corps. They constantly saw their friends and could visit them conveniently.

Then when the new area was added many fears were expressed that the division of the campus would split the corps into two factions. Fortunately this has not happened, nor does it seem likely to happen. But another danger has arisen with time which can injure our traditional solidarity.

As a natural result of the geographical locations, each cadet has most of his friends in the area in which he lives. Except for special occasions, it is too much trouble to walk to the other area for a friendly visit. But the condition has resulted in the fact that the two lower classes have never lived all together, and their friends in the other area are usually limited to class room acquaintance and home town boys. If no changes are made next year, only the seniors will have ever lived close to all the other member of his class.

Further, none of the cadets of either area are familiar with conditions in the other. They don't know where formations are held, how organizations march into the mess hall, or the situation in the different style dormitories.

Regimental dormitory assignment for next year could be changed to prevent much of this. If the regiments lived with a different mixture in the areas next year, they would make other friends who would be more evenly distributed over the campus. By a change each year, no class would ever graduate without the advantage of living under different conditions. The change would be somewhat difficult as the size of the two areas is not equal. And the Cavalry should always live near the stables and the band in dorm 11, but the other could be shifted without too much trouble. The unit of the cadet corps would be well worth the effort.

Collegiate Strike Views

"WITH THE WORLD tottering about us and all that we value in our customary way of life hanging in the balance, it is sometimes difficult to realize that the workaday routine of college work is significant. At the same time, the college must continue to operate, and it will, more than ever, be important for the college to stimulate the emotional and spiritual values as well as the intellectual. What we all need now more than ever is faith in the validity of our essential traditions, a conviction that during the past 200 years our way of life has been on the upward grade, and that the contributions to this development are due to men of vision, high purpose and wisdom. This is no time to emphasize the seamy side of our past—or even of our present—if these be such. A nation, like an individual, has a right to be taken at its best rather than at its worst, until the contrary is proved." Dean Herbert E. Hawkes of Columbia college urges that colleges stress only the best in Americanism.

"These are grave times. Be careful of your speech and your actions in matters of public policy. Remember that a careless act or word by anyone on a university campus will be more misunderstood than if you had shouted your views in the main streets of your home towns. There are some so careless and unaware of the world they live in that they feel they need give no thought to what they say or do. They fail to recognize that wherever men live together, there is no such thing as unrestrained liberty, and that there is less of it when a nation is at war or living under the threat of it." Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, president of the University of Minnesota, sees need for a curb on words as well as a curb on deeds.

—Associated Collegiate Press

A new course, "Courtship and Marriage," offered at Bucknell university is the most popular on the campus.

Something to Read

BY DR. T. F. MAYO
A Book of Good Plays

"The Best Plays of 1939-'40," edited by Burns Mantle, is the latest volume of an excellent annual series. It contains, in a slightly abbreviated form the ten plays that Mr. Mantle considers the most worth reading of those which appeared on Broadway during that season.

No one who likes at all to read plays should miss a volume of this series, which has been appearing since 1919-'20. In it practically every interest of the American people for twenty eventful years is echoed and discussed and dramatized. Since the American drama never amounted to much before 1919, every American play of value is to be read in these volumes.

This latest volume contains at least three plays that will give you an interesting hour apiece. Robert Sherwood's "There Shall Be No Night" deals with the heroic Finnish struggle against the Russians, but the thrill of pride that it gives you, pride in being a human being, will last long after the Finnish War is forgotten. Sherwood is well-known as a "sophisticated" dramatist. He has written gay and flippant and amusingly cynical plays with the best. But he really cares about something. His characters (Finnish, American, Polish) are decent to the bone. They stand for all the decent people all over the world who, caught in the storm of this ghastly age, refuse to give up their belief in the worthwhileness of being decent, or their determination to stick it out and make a decent world. Man has learned to know everything but himself. He is nearer now than he ever was to learning himself. When he achieves this last knowledge, "there shall be no night."

Maxwell Anderson's "Key Largo" carries on in the same general tone. Beginning with the hero's cowardly surrender of his own ideal, it shows that even a man who has slid a long way down can pull himself together and struggle upward again. Like "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Key Largo" deals with American volunteers in the Spanish War.

"Life With Father," a dramatization of Clarence Day's irresistibly funny but warmly affectionate memoirs of his own family, is a specimen of the best and sanest sort of humor. It makes you laugh at people and love them at the same time. "Father" is as real and as richly human as Ma Joad. Perhaps it is just as well, now that we have been wholesomely shocked by the "proletarian" writers into realizing that America has its unfortunate Joads, that we should be thus pleasantly reminded that the well-fed Day family is just as typically American.

As the World Turns..

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

Rudolf Hess, third ranking Nazi, makes headline news. The sudden flight of Rudolf Hess to England has stirred up the imagination of the world. Hitler's most intimate friend has deserted him. The circumstances, which brought about such a departure, are not as yet clear, but it is clear that one of the Nazi idols has tumbled down. Knowing the Nazi methods of purging the discordant elements of the Nazi party, Hess chose England as the safest place in Europe. It is premature to make any assertions about the consequences of this historic escape. The explanation from Berlin is that Hess was suffering from "Hallucinations" might be a nice way to appease the curiosity of the German people about his significant runaway from the fatherland. He had evidently planned the flight carefully; he took pictures of himself with him to prove his identity; and he had taken enough gasoline for only a one way trip. Several other conjectures have been made concerning Hess' flight but it would be discreet not to accept any one of them until we have more reliable information. However, Rudolf Hess has provided Britain with propaganda material which can be used against the Nazis with damaging blows.

Meanwhile, the war continues unabated. In fact, Hitler and the democracies are making plans for another year or even two years. Reports indicate that Germany is not making any demands on Turkey which might change turkey's present position of neutrality. Long war is liable to bring pressure on Spain. Hitler would like to swing General Franco into the Axis. Spain is not able to wage war now. Should general Franco side with the Axis powers, there is the prospect of a complete British blockade of Spain. Hitler must be able to feed the Spanish people before he could use Spanish territory against Britain.

A prolonged war will affect unoccupied France also. The negotiations between Hitler and Petain, with Admiral Darlan as an intermediary, indicate that Hitler is demanding some cooperation in the war on the side of Germany. The French may yield to Hitler Syria as a base of operation in the Near East against Britain. Petain, however, is holding out with the hope of lightening the burden of occupation on France and is bargaining for other privileges.

Stalin, too, seems to be interested in the duration of the war. Two weeks ago he assumed the position of premier of Russia while Molotoff, Stalin's predecessor in the same position, will remain as Minister of Foreign affairs. This change has been interpreted by some people that a Russo-German cooperation is in the making. Germany will need large quantities of foodstuffs in order to wage a long war. If Stalin joins the Axis powers, it will mean the end of Russian aid to China. An aid from Franco, Petain, and Stalin will supply Hitler with some foodstuffs and provide strategic positions for Hitler. Will such an aid be greater than the aid Britain gets from the United States? Only time can give us the answer.

Colgate university has been presented the 1,000 volume geological library of the late Dr. Albert Perry Brigham, former president of the Association of American Geographers.

BACKWASH

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



Taken behind the scenes at last Saturday's corps dance, this picture shows maestro Al Donahue (right) and his brother with orchestra's vocalist Dee Keeting. During intermission the swing family stepped back to see the huge Aggie kitchen and smoke while cooling off.

Touch and Go... Last weekend's Senior Ring functions attracted belles from coast to coast. Ralph Hartgraves' escortee— attractive Peggy Hedgecoxe—arrived via air from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she attends the state's university. Three girls were here from Missouri's Stephens College for Women, one trekked from Cleveland, Ohio and two California beauties (both of whom are still on the campus) made the Texas trip to attend the climax social function of the class of '41...



Fuermann

Saturday morning the current writer bows out (with the exception of the last edition of The Battalion this year) as an A. & M. columnist. Evidence is that junior-editor-to-be Charles Babcock of Beaumont will take up a two-year lease on Backwash beginning Tuesday morning... Major General Henry Donavon, commanding general of the Eighth Corps Area, will present the 537 reserve commissions to graduating advanced R.O.T.C. seniors previous to the Final Review June 7... Tuesday night, over NBC Blue, you'll hear "The Spirit of Aggie Land" as the Raleigh cigarette program features A. & M. on its weekly "College Humor" program. Watch the Saturday Battalion for a detailed page-one story on this... Sabotage: In most of the cadet dormitories there are boxes in which tinfoil may be deposited as a part of the local anti-Britain campaign. One blitz-kreiging fifth columnist, however, evidently leans in a definitely pro-Axis direction—he's been dropping lighted matches in the boxes, thus destroying the contents!... Let's call an all-out attendance at Friday's and Saturday's Aggie-Texas U. baseball games. Coaches and players both have remarked repeatedly this year about the all-time high the corps' LACK of interest in baseball has reached. At one conference game, less than a hundred cadets, no yell leaders and only a small part of the band was on hand. The team still has a chance to win the conference championship—and the fact that we've got to beat Texas three in a row to do it should result in a 100 per cent turn-out! The team needs your cooperation!

The Backwash Poll

The column's orchestra poll committee—including Social Secretary Jack Nelson, Joe Snow, George Mueller and R. B. Pearce—meets tonight to tabulate the corps' opinion as to the relative merits of the batonning which went on throughout the past social season. At the half-way mark the committee rated Bernie Cummins and Boyd Raeburn in a tie for first place. Watch for Al Donahue to take a strangle-hold on the No. 1 position in the final tabulation, thus becoming the Aggies' top-ranking orchestra for the current long session. The committee's tabulation will be the official indication of the corps' rating of the various orchestras here on the campus this year. Lou Breeze will necessarily be left out of the poll as the Junior Prom and Final Ball fall too late to be included. Results of the poll will be included in the nation's leading musical mags such as Billboard, Metronome and half a dozen others.

WHAT'S SHOWING

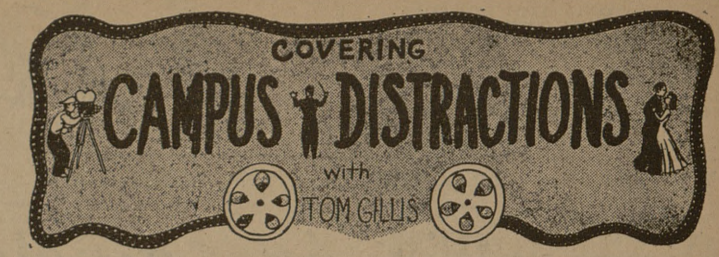
AT THE CAMPUS
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—"BUCK PRIVATES" starring Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, the Andrews Sisters, Lee Bowman, Nat Pendleton, and Jans Frazee.

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Thursday 3:30 and 6:45—"VIRGINIA" with Madeline Carroll, Fred MacMurray, Stirling Hayden, Helen Broderick, Marie Wilson, and Carolyn Lee.
Friday 3:30 and 6:45—"GUNDA DIN" with Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., and Sam Jaffe. Benefit Petroleum Engineering club.

Barnum Was Right

Definitely the best gag of the year was the one pulled by a group of unknown Bryan belles this past week. The story goes something like this...

"Is this the maternity house?" plaintively inquired a female voice on one of the new dorm's telephones.
"Gawd no," replied the astounded freshman, "but can I help you?"
"Maybe," continued the voice



By Tom Vannoy
"BUCK PRIVATES" is booked for a three-day stand at the Campus starting today, featuring Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, and the Andrews Sisters. From the beginning to the very last shot, it is filled with gags by Abbott and Costello, and also the enjoyable vocals that Andrews sisters can do on any occasion.

In trying to aid national defense or something, Abbott and Costello enlist in the army. The Andrews sisters are hostesses, and what hostesses. There's a plot mixed up in it too, but it is really unimportant. "Buck Privates" is a taste of what is yet to come from Abbott and Costello, who will take up where the Marx Brothers and Mack Sennett left off. In addition to making motion pictures, Abbott and Costello appear each Sunday night on a radio show. If you need cheering up, then see "Buck Privates."

The Petroleum Engineering club is presenting "GUNDA DIN" tomorrow at the Assembly Hall. It is a trifle antiquated; nevertheless, it still remains a thriller about the British Army in India. It is lacking in the romantic touch, but has every shot filled with action and suspense. Describing the trials and tribulations of three sergeants, Cary Grant, Victor McLaglen, and Douglas Fairbanks Jr., in their attempts to subdue the revolting native population, "Gunda Din" is well worth the time it takes to see it. Also there is the not-to-be-forgotten performance of Sam Jaffe as the regimental water carrier, Gunda Din, and Kipling's poem eulogizing him.

Showing for the last time today at the Assembly Hall is "VIRGINIA," a story of the Southern viewpoint clashing with the Northern one. A treat to the eyes and ears as it is filmed in technicolor, "Virginia" has Madeline Carroll as the beautiful blond sophisticated Southern miss. Stirling Hayden is the Northern business man who tries to get her to sell the old home place. Also not to be neglected is mixture of yankee and southern dialects that are noticeable all the way through the picture.

Coming up Saturday night at 10:30 at the Assembly Hall is a benefit show to help students from foreign countries, put on by the Y. M. C. A. It is a very worthy cause and deserves a good turnout by the cadet corps. More about the show will appear in Saturday's column.

Campus

15¢ to 5 p.m. — 20¢ After

TODAY - TOMORROW and SATURDAY

IT'S THE BIG PARADE OF LAUGHS!



BUD ABBOTT and LOU COSTELLO

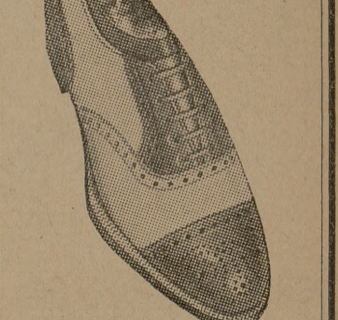
BUCK PRIVATES

Lee BOWMAN Alan CURTIS Jane FRAZEE Nat PENDLETON and The ANDREWS SISTERS and a jimpin' 'ivin' gang of guys and gals!

also CARTOON and "BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC"

Cream 'n Coffee

A BOSTONIAN Color Scoop...

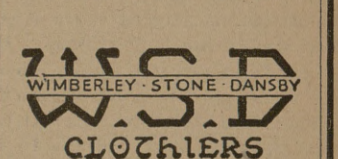


A swell "new color tone" that's a "yes" to current colorful clothing for men... Held up against any shade, Cream 'n Coffee combine to please the eye. Since they're Bostonians, their fit and feel are bound to please the foot.

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