

The Battalion

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

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We've Accepted Military Duty; Now, Let's Receive Army Privilege

By Monday night, December 8, what had been a murmur the afternoon before had turned into an impassioned cry. A. & M. should make all of its facilities available for the government's use and offer all possible service for the nation's defense. And so it was.

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But what do we get for all of this military preparation other than a smile and a pat on the back from the public? No, not that we are looking for any great demonstrations of appreciation because we are not. We as Aggies and true Americans are willing to do this because we feel it our duty and want to. Yet there are some privileges which we should be entitled to.

Uncle Sam and the U. S. O. are spending millions of dollars for entertainment in the army camps. Talent from Broadway to Hollywood is assembled in shows which just make tours over the entire nation for the benefit of the men in uniform, men who are preparing just as the Aggies are preparing.

The itinerary of these entertainment groups include the many military posts in the state of Texas both north and south, east and west of College Station but not the home of the Texas Aggie. Why? Aren't we helping prepare the nation as much as the selectees? Why shouldn't we get some of the sweets of military life, when these sweets can be given for almost nothing extra. The routes of these traveling units cross at Aggie-land. In the future they should stop here.

The World Turns On

By Dr. J. H. Quisenberry

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas is now fully embarked upon a streamlined program intended to turn out in a minimum of time a maximum number of students trained, not only in the science of war and military strategy, but in professions that will enable them to produce needed war materials and to find a worthwhile place in establishing and maintaining peace when the present conflict ends. The success of this new endeavor depends upon the cooperation of both students and faculty.

To crowd 18 weeks of academic work into 16 weeks without lowering of standards is no mean task. No sincere Aggie wants his degree from this institution to represent less effort and achievement than those in years past. The number of stars in the distinguished service flag in the rotunda of our Academic Building is a forecast of the grave responsibilities that are to be the lot of Ex-Aggies in the next few years. No A. & M. Cadet can afford to meet those responsibilities inadequately prepared. The faculty cannot afford to give him a false feeling of security by lowering standards.

We have heard much about the loss of traditions in the past few weeks. Important as the traditions of A. & M. are, they are not as important as the lives of the students it graduates and the men whom they shall direct in combat.

As an Ex-Aggie and a member of the teaching staff I am wondering if the major loss that the recent change in local traditional behavior has brought about is not the

Open Forum

They Capitalized on the War

You won, but you'll be sorry. Every Aggie has lost faith in you as leaders.

We know now that we have no alternative but to accept your "kampf."

Do you believe that your tactics were democratic and exemplified leadership?

You, the powers that be, have commercialized on the war. You cannot justify your action by implying that our school will be more militaristic. You have called upon us to make sacrifices that will in no way aid in defeating the axis, you saw an opportunity to destroy that factor or element that caused you unrest, namely, that of listening to some boy's excuse for busting out of school, some boy's excuse to his parents. You aren't Aggies because you shirked your duty. Your part in the Aggie spirit was to humor the parents of these boys—boys that you knew were lying or hunting an excuse. You think now that you can rest in peace, but endure the thought that some 6,000 Aggies know that you are poor leaders and will strike at anything to accomplish your gain.

Surely you are familiar with the benefits derived from so-called "personal services." As one of your members told us, it's a good thing, but has been abused. Why "cut off an arm to cure an aching finger?" You say that we have formulated our opinion because it has been instilled in us by our attendance. You have taken away other traditions, actions by you that we accepted with less resentment because we knew that we could maintain our Aggie—the old Aggie—spirit. Tell us where we are to build the fellowship that existed between the fish and the upperclassmen. What are we going to substitute as a leveling process? What element can we substitute that will make country boy or city boy, rich boy or poor boy one—everyone attending yell practice, fish meeting each other?

We refer to your actions as undemocratic. Was it gentlemanly to act when you did and how you did? Did you have to use the war as an excuse? We refer to you as failures as leaders. Did you present your plan and show us how fruitless our efforts would be not to accept them? No sir, we had to find out for ourselves.

Remember ROTC schools came into being after the last war and served as a means for the war department to maintain political influence. Is the future so bright when the government must again school the graduates? Ask General Hershey.

What sort of excuse or lies will boys dropping out of A. & M. from here on out use? At Texas and other coed schools they have no excuses, their parents know that they were lazy, lacked initiative, or were plain sorry. Do we lose so many more each year than they do because of "personal services"?

You'll be sorry. Sure we'll keep on going to your school and abiding by your rules—we'll go to your "Utopia," but we'll not carry any torch for you when we leave this place. You needn't turn to us for free publicity or seek our goodwill. We'll never recommend school to anyone, neither will we send our children. Remember you'll not always have the demand for military as a drawing card. You'll get boys to enroll here, but how are you going to keep them here? Winning football teams, I suppose.

We will grant you that under our new semester set-up that personal services would have to be adjusted. Would one hour a day devoted to personal services be too demanding of a freshman that has been loaded down with rising 10 minutes earlier every morning, devoting 10 minutes to calisthenics and two more hours of drill.

In conclusion may we say that we have lost faith in you as leaders and your democratic or your American way of pursuing action.

'Tis no wonder that we have Pearl Harbor tragedies.

James C. Holekamp, '42

same that Hitler will lose if he loses the war, the right to dictate. Most A. & M. upperclassmen do not now use this means of acquiring respect. They are the true leaders and no change in traditions will affect them. It is only the small percentage who must use dictatorial force to command respect from upperclassmen who shall lose by the recent changes in student government.

The one tradition which is vital to the life of any college and one we cannot afford to lose at A. & M. is the training and education that will "fit a man to perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously, all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war."

Quotable Quotes

"I will not leave Japan even if worse comes to worse in Japanese-American relations. In time I have hopes of seeing America understand Japan's intentions. Even if my Japanese friends should abandon me I will not return to America, but will commit hara-kiri and die on Japanese soil. Paul Rusch of Louisville, Ky., instructor at Tokyo's Rikkyo (Episcopalian) university for the last 15 years and the man who introduced American football to Japan, takes his stand in advance of possible Japanese-American hostilities.

PRIVATE BUCK By Clyde Lewis



"For your information, Private Buck, a SLEEVE target is that long canvas thing BEHIND the plane!"

BACKWASH

BY Charlie Babcock

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

Portrait of a Broken Spirit . . . This is the ninth inning. We're going to bat for the last time.

It's hard for any man to say that he is whipped, even if it is just momentarily. But we've been convinced that the loyal cadet corps has been batting its brains out against a stone wall. You can't buck the board of directors, the executive committee, majority of the former students, majority of the people of the State of Texas—especially in war time.

So, lets make this last turn at the plate a survey of the principles of the situation, not a recommendation for defiance. It's too late for any of that.

Sincerely speaking, if we live to be 100 years old, we will never believe that what the authorities of this college did in January, 1942, was justifiable. We will always be opposed to their totalitarian acts. But the fact remains that it has been done, and those authorities are ready to back up their acts with action. There is nothing that a handful of college students can do to protect a few cherished traditions when others are sacrificing in blood for this war.

Let's put aside all surface arguments for the present and talk about the real basis for the Aggies' plan of having freshmen render personal service to upperclassmen. We've analyzed the situation carefully, and it is not a question of an upperclassman hating to do his own detail work. No, it's a far deeper element than that.

In our way of thinking, there are five major reasons why freshman service is so essential and necessary to the very existence of A. & M. as follows:

(1). Promotes a greater fellowship and a greater esprit de corps—Based on the old axiom that when a person does a favor for another, he naturally takes a greater interest in that individual, and in return, the upperclassman re-

alizes a stronger comradeship for this new, young fella who has done some trivial little detail for the older student.

(2). Only boys who expect to withstand a bit of hardship and responsibility would enter under the old system. In turn, a better class of men would be graduated, men that would make real officers.

(3). Teaches a youth how to take orders before he can give them. Instructs the new student in the ability of shouldering responsibility and hardship, the primary desires of the leaders of our army.

(4). Promotes a democratic system—rich boy and poor boy, country boy and city boy, all come to A. & M. with equal opportunities. Each new student has the equal right for development. There is no favoritism. The freshman must stick, make a go of his difficulties before he earns the right to be called an Aggie.

(5). Provides for the necessary class distinction so indispensable to a massive all-male, military school.

So that's our story. That's what we've been fighting for. And we believe that there are others who shared some of our views. There was one, Durward B. Varner, cadet colonel of the college in 1939-40. Varner, during his four years at A. & M. was a distinguished student, held numerous campus honors, captained the basketball team, and as a reward for his efforts, both scholastically and socially, was chosen to deliver the valedictory address of his class.

Following is an excerpt from Cadet Colonel Varner's speech:

"As freshmen we came here, and regardless of whether we came in an expensive, fashionable suit of clothes or in a pair of overalls, we all donned the government issued uniforms and the white fish stripes—we were all created at A. & M. free and equal. Every man's future here was dependent upon his own initiative, industry, and intelligence—just as provided for Americans in the American Constitution. As freshmen we had certain tasks to do, but

COVERING campus distractions WITH TOM VANNOY

Do you like a really fascinating mystery picture? Then here is one that will help to satisfy that desire for a while. It is "THE MALTESE FALCON" which will be showing at Guion hall today and tomorrow.

Humphrey Bogart, who has won so much acclaim for his similar roles, plays the part of a private detective who has been engaged by Mary Astor to trail a certain man. Things begin to take on a peculiar aspect when both his partner and the man he was trailing are killed. Then Bogart is offered a large sum of money to find a porcelain statuette in the form of a falcon.

It develops that the men who are after the falcon will go to no end to recover it. As the story progresses, the crossing and double-crossing gets more and more involved.

For some top-notch entertainment in the scary line, this is a chance that ought not to be missed. The story is taken from the novel, "The Thin Man," by Dashiell Hammett. The entire cast really did a fine job of acting in making this picture. It is a masterpiece of well-sustained, well-thought-out entertainment.

"Keep 'em Flying" is the theme of "FLYING CADETS" at the Campus today and tomorrow. This is the story of the civilian pilot training schools that are doing so much to help the country survive during this critical period. Edmund Lowe, William Gargan, and Peggy Moran are the lead-

after all, regardless of where we are or what we do, we must comply with certain rules of the game. Certainly no man's initiative was destroyed because some went to the top, others didn't do so well, while still others gave up the fight all together.

"During our four years here we have followed the same democratic principle—it has mattered not that a boy be a millionaire or one working every penny of his way through school, it mattered not whether he lived in a rambling shack or the best dormitory—he was still an Aggie. Just as America as a country has created all men free and equal and has given the opportunity to rise to the top to those who have the will and ability, so has our training here at A. & M. created all boys free and equal.

Whether he were Jew or Gentile, American or German or Japanese—he was an Aggie, loved and respected by his classmates and given the same equal opportunity to push forward just as long as he didn't interfere with the rights of others.

"Isn't that the American way?"

Yes, Woody, we believe that it was. And Aggies and Aggie-land will always be recorded in the past tense until we return to that "American way" or devise some flawless substitute for it.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE CAMPUS

Tuesday, Wednesday — "FLYING CADETS," with Edmund Lowe and Peggy Moran. Also "THE PERFECT SNOB," featuring Lynn Bari and Charles Ruggles.

AT GUION HALL

Tuesday, Wednesday — "THE MALTESE FALCON," starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor.

Trade At LOUPOT'S

PALACE PHONE 2-8879

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

BOB HOPE
VERA ZORINA

in
"Louisiana Purchase"

★
Preview 11 P. M.
Saturday Night

BETTY GRABLE

in
"I Wake Up Screaming"

★
Shown Sunday-Monday

Campus

4-1181

TODAY AND TOMORROW
Double Feature

CHARLIE RUGGLES
CHARLOTTE GREENWOOD
LYNN BARI - CORNEL WILDE

THE PERFECT SNOB

Shows at
1:00, 3:22, 5:44, 8:06, 10:28

"FLYING CADETS"

with
PEGGY MORAN EDMUND LOWE

Shows at 2:18, 4:40, 7:02, 9:24
Also
DISNEY CARTOON

Movie

GUION HALL

Tuesday and Wednesday

3:30 and 6:45

MARY ASTOR AND
HUMPHREY BOGART

in

"Maltese Falcon"

SELECTED SHORTS

COMING

Thursday and Friday

"Lady Be Good"

Sophomores

Don't wait any longer to place

your order for one of our

Perfect Fitting

TAILOR MADE UNIFORMS

Uniform Tailor Shop

MENDL & HORNAK

North Gate