

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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Will You Be a Mess Officer?

Many young officers are assigned the duty of mess officer soon after they enter the service. In most cases these officers know little or nothing about these duties, and consequently leave the work entirely up to the mess sergeants. Nevertheless, their lack of knowledge is a handicap. But this handicap can be remedied as far as future A. & M. officers are concerned. A course in mess management and training has already been considered and planned. If the students act immediately they can have such a course this semester. A. & M. has the facilities and the professors to teach this course in a most effective way. Some of the men on our campus are among the nation's leaders in the fields of nutrition, kitchen management, and mess hall problems, both military and civilian. Last semester a course for athletic officers was instituted, and it has proved highly successful. Students with commissions realized the need for it. Now, other students realize the need for the proposed mess management course. Since Saturday is the deadline for adding courses those students who desire such a subject, which in all probability would be a one hour class at five o'clock in the afternoon, should write The Battalion immediately so that arrangements can be made.

College Radicalism

Students do not "turn radical" in the average American college or university, observes Morton Mintz in the Michigan Daily. Results of an exhaustive four-year survey, combined with similar research of other psychologists conducted over a 15-year period in approximately 50 colleges, have convinced Professor Theodore M. Newcomb of Michigan's sociology department that there is "only a slight increase in liberalism" between entrance and graduation among the great majority of students. (Professor Newcomb said liberalism is defined in the survey as favoring the kinds of changes introduced by the New Deal). Professor Newcomb's conclusions, which will be published in book form this spring under the title "Personality and Attitude Development," stated that "in college students, family background is a less important factor in attitude change than the conservatism or liberalism prevailing in the college atmosphere." His survey was conducted chiefly at Bennington college in Vermont, where he taught social psychology from 1934-41. The survey was made from 1935-39. At this college of 250 girls he found that the great majority of students—who were nearly all from wealthy homes—lost their entrenched conservatism and became much more liberal than any other college group. Some millionaire's daughters became confirmed radicals. Citing this as proof of his theory that family background is of secondary importance, he said the liberal environment of Bennington college proved more potent than parental advice and beliefs. Professor Newcomb stressed, however, certain factors which differentiated Bennington from other schools. He pointed out that the school was new and based on a radically different system of individualized education. The president of the college was himself a liberal and a social scientist. In addition the faculty, in contrast to those of the University of Chicago and St. Johns college, which emphasize the classics was almost obsessed with the importance of acquainting students with the contemporary world. Dr. Newcomb declared that it is because of the conservative attitude prevalent in most American colleges that students are on the whole conservative. He maintained that those who changed least, or not at all, in an atmosphere such as that at Bennington, were those absorbed in their own personal concerns, and bitter or antagonistic toward community activities. Asked how many students who are liberal when they enter college adopt conservatism during school, he said there are very few, and in these cases there is usually a psy-

chological reaction against liberal but domineering, dogmatic parents. Pointing to such schools near Bennington as Williams college and Skidmore, where comparable students enter conservative and leave only slightly liberal, Professor Newcomb said that at such typically American schools the most prominent campus leaders were more likely to be the most conservative students, while at Bennington the most popular were the most radical. He said that at Bennington liberalism was a vital issue while at most other schools it was not considered important. —ACP

Man, Your Manners

By I. Sherwood
Nowhere is greater dignity of manner required of us, than in the church or a religious ceremony. Since the purpose of the church service is worship, the only fitting attitude is one of reverence. Conversation, preceding or during the service, is out of order. Where to sit in church is usually solved for you by an usher, who knows whether or not certain seats are reserved for members of the church. In most churches now, you may sit where you please, and it is perfectly proper for you to ask the usher to seat you in the section that you prefer.

Most of us feel more "at home" in the church that we are accustomed to worship in, but we need not feel out of place and ill at ease in churches in which the ritual is different from our own. The air of formality in some churches makes us particularly conscious of our behavior. A visitor can give no offense in a ritualistic church if he remains seated throughout the service. If, however, he wishes to follow the service, he is at liberty to do so. The general rules for procedure are that the congregation stands for praise, sits for instruction, and kneels for prayer. Some churches have "open communion," which means that all Christians may partake of the bread and wine. Other churches have "closed communion," which means that only those of that faith may partake. Usually the clergyman makes it clear whether visitors may or may not partake. If a young man accompanies a girl to her church, the girl should make her own contribution to the collection plate. He, too, will probably contribute something. *The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one.* —Abraham Lincoln, 1864

Something to Read

By Dr. T. F. Mayo
Leisure Reading for Engineers (Recommended and annotated from their own reading, by two Aggie engineering seniors.)
Men and Machines by Stuart Chase In answer to the charge that machines—created by men, engineers—are enslaving men, Mr. Chase conducts a rational investigation. As many of you know, Stuart Chase is a master in the art of presenting a logical argument simply and clearly—and painlessly. Engineers should be interested in reading this book and discovering that perhaps the advent of the engineers' baby, the modern complex machine, was not an unmixed blessing.
The Engineer and the Price System by Thorstein Veblen Here's a book that no one who seriously intends to pursue engineering as a profession can afford to miss. Written in 1921 by the daddy of all the technocrats, this little book contains material which has later been adopted by the contemporary popular economists. To a good many of you, the ideas presented here will seem radical in the extreme; however, engineers, a group which prides itself on its ability to think logically will be hard put to it to find fault in his argument. Veblen sets out to show that the business man, long considered the patron of the engineer, is now in fact his jailor and that engineers, as a group, have more of an identity of interest with the laboring group than with the business man. This is to many a novel view—whether you can agree with Veblen or not, you will certainly come across some interesting ideas, which, as an engineer, you should be familiar with.
Engines of Democracy by Roger Burlingame A recent well organized book presenting the social implications of various engines and gadgets. The author raises the question of inventing a new society, just as an inventor would invent a new machine, if notions about the machine and society stand in the way of progress.
March of the Iron Men by Roger Burlingame This book is an excellent summary of the work of American inventors between 1765 and 1865. The author gives, as the main invention-promoting forces in America, the necessity for conquering distances and the necessity of meeting labor shortages. Burlingame also brings out how inventions had inevitably determined the outcome of the Civil War before a shot was fired. Why?
Charles Proteus Steinmetz, a biography by John Winthrop Hammond. This biography presents an inspiring story of a man whose name most people know, but about whom they know little. It is definitely adventurous to discover that the electrical genius was a German student socialist who was hounded by the police of the Iran Chancellor of Germany, Bismarck, until he came to America. The reader discovers Steinmetz as an idealist; a world-builder, and as sometimes misunderstood.

Kollegiate Kaleidoscope

COL. GEO. C. HURT, DIRECTOR OF THE U. OF TEXAS BAND, ONCE TRAVELED OVER 27,000 MILES TO PLAY A SINGLE NOTE! HE WENT TO CALCUTTA, INDIA, TO PLAY ONE NOTE, B FLAT, ON A FRENCH HORN IN ONE OF BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONIES.

WHEATON COLLEGE, (ILL.) BANS SMOKING, DRINKING, DRAMATICS, CARDS, DRINKING, AND THEATER AND MOVIE ATTENDANCE. STILL IT IS THE FASTEST GROWING COLLEGE IN AMERICA TODAY!

EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY HAS A CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF \$12,300,000,000

BACKWASH

By Charlie Babcock
"Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster
To the Point . . . Campus theater continues its benefit shows today with Rio Grande Valley club, the sponsors . . . Advent of second semester at Texas university finds the Austin males worried about the draft and military service. Evidence of a new interest along military lines is indicated by the plebe class of about 50 registering for the spring term course of the T. U. Naval R.O.T.C. . . George "Monoplane" Blackburn has left Sbis for the new area mess hall, becoming No. 1 man under Bill Butler . . . Arkansas university, 70 years old last month, first opened its doors to a total enrollment of seven students, with men outnumbering the women, 6 to 1 . . . The Battalion is attempting to secure free admission for Aggies to the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth in March. Only form of tariff will be the customary government tax . . . "Lefty" Bumpers, ace pitcher of the 1941 Aggie baseball team, signed with the naval air corps in Dallas Tuesday. Bumpers was to report to the Detroit Tigers for spring training in Florida in a few weeks . . . Field Artillery seniors are warned to get in the habit early of removing the keys from an automobile when they remove themselves. Word comes from former Aggies at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, training center for reserve field artillery officers, that penalty for leaving keys in automobiles is confiscation of said vehicle for 48 hours.

Self Isolation Isn't Best Professional Plan

State College Pa. (ACP)—Regardless of your outlook on the subject of international affairs, don't be an isolationist in your profession. That's the advice of Dr. Emmett A. Betts, director of the reading clinic at Pennsylvania State college. "Human knowledge cannot be isolated and classified in clean-cut categories," Dr. Betts says. "Neither can a given profession serve best by following a policy of isolation. The debt of a profession to society can be paid only by co-operating with all the agencies for the promotion of human welfare and happiness." The educator believes one of the prime difficulties in the way of such co-operation is failure to understand the terms used in other professions. An interchange of mutual problems in professional study groups, he declares, would overcome that obstacle and enable members of different professions with the Texas-Colorado battle, to "talk the same language."

Remember?

Weldon Hart, Texas U. graduate of '33, former sports editor of the Austin Statesman and now staff man for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, authored an entertaining article in the December issue of The Alcalde, university alumni magazine. Text of Hart's story concerned the success and failure of the 1941 Longhorn footballers. Beginning with the Texas-Colorado battle,

DR. T. O. WALTON, JR.
Announces Opening
College Medical Center
Phone 4-1198
Dr. T. T. Walton (Office Hours) A.M. P.M. 7:30-9:00 7:30-9:00 (Except Wed.)
Dr. L. O. Wilkerson (Office Hours) 1:00-2:00 P.M. (Except Thursday)

COVERING campus distractions WITH TOM VANNOY

If you are craving some right fine diversion from the worries of the world, take time out to see "SWING IT, SOLDIER" at the Campus today. The Rio Grande Valley A. & M. club is sponsoring the show, and tickets may be obtained from any member of the club. Some of the names that you have been hearing over the radio for quite some time are the starring actors in the show. Ken Murray plays the role of a draftee who has just returned to civilian life after an enlistment in the army. As twin sisters, one of them married to Lewis Howard, and the other eligible for a husband, there is Frances Langford. And she sings some really good numbers to the accompaniment of Skinny Ennis' orchestra. Don Wilson of the Jack Benny show and Brenda and Cobina are added to make the show still more enjoyable. It is all very well produced and directed. You will enjoy seeing "Swing It, Soldier" a lot. Eleanor Powell returns to the screen in "LADY BE GOOD" at Guion Hall today and tomorrow. Also included in the star-studded cast are Ann Sothorn and Robert Young. The picture is a top-flight musical that has not been equalled for quite a while. The story deals with the marital difficulties Ann and Bob have as a song-writing team after becoming a hit on Broadway. Success usually breeds laziness and this is no exception. Mixed in very successfully all the way through are some lavish dancing scenes featuring the talented Miss Powell. Hawaiian moonlight, girls, pineapples, and music, that's "MOONLIGHT IN HAWAII." Johnny Downs and Jane Frazee are featured actors in the story that will be at the Campus tomorrow and Saturday. It is entertainment, but that is almost all that there is to be said. The Merry Macs cannot be overlooked, however, because they add to the film considerably. And the great Russian, Mischa Auer, gets in a romantic lick or two to top things off just right.

Campus
Dial 4-1181
TODAY ONLY
"Swing It Soldier"
with Frances Langford -- Ken Murray
ALL DAY TODAY
BENEFIT SHOW
Rio Grande Valley A. & M. Club
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Moonlight in Hawaii
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE 1G
with Johnny Downs -- Jane Frazee
SHORT -- COMMUNITY SING NEWS

Swing! Sweet
Get the Newest in Both Styles on
VICTOR and BLUEBIRD RECORDS
VICTOR RECORDS 50c BLUEBIRD RECORDS 35c
"BLUES IN THE NIGHT" by Dinah Shore
"SERENADE FOR STRINGS" by Freddy Martin
"FOOLED" by GLENN MILLER
"TIS AUTUMN" by King Sisters
"I GOT IT BAD" by Duke Ellington
"SOMEBODY ELSE IS TAKING MY PLACE" by Sammy Kaye
HASWELL'S

Movie
GUION HALL
Thursday and Friday
3:30 and 6:45
Eleanor Powell -- Ann Sothorn
Robert Young
in
"Lady Be Good"
NEWS --- COMEDY
Coming Saturday
"Down In San Diego"
Also
"MARCH OF TIME"