

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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The Spirit of '42

What has happened to the Senior Class? Where is the spirit of '42? Is it dead because every thing during the past several weeks hasn't gone our way? Apparently so.

Wednesday night action on several important decisions was deferred because there were not enough men present. The 130 present felt that it was not their privilege as a small per cent of the class of '42 to decide for all their classmates. As a tail, they didn't want to swing the bull.

Thursday night another meeting was publicized and held.

Seventy-five loyal seniors attended. These few men acted for their entire class in the one decision they made. Actually, whether it reflects true senior opinion can't be told and doesn't matter now. But what does matter is this: if the seniors lack enough interest and spirit to attend their own class meetings, which are relatively few, they have incurred a great loss.

At one time the class of '42 was a strong unit. True, it might have been split at times over certain principles, but the students were always interested in the same big issues. Now, there isn't even enough interest to have conflicting ideas. The class is drifting aimlessly along, hoping that the class leaders will do what is best. When things don't please the individual seniors, they bleed, but when they have the opportunity to act, the opportunity is passed up.

What can't happen here is rapidly happening. Let's stop it.

The Value of the Press

The average man will, immediately upon arising, make a grab for the morning paper to read of the latest world developments. When he leave his office at 5 o'clock, he will read the evening paper. The other members of the family amuse themselves with the special features. Seldom do they stop to appreciate the world-wide network of correspondents or the tremendous number of man hours required to give them this paper, which they have come to take for granted.

Not so long ago, several weeks were elapsed before the American man could read what was happening in Europe. Even as recently as World War I news was delayed a week or more, either because of lack of correspondents or transmission facilities. With the advent of the radio and cable, all of this was changed. He received the news the day after it was 'made', or the same day. In news coming from the orient, he even receives it a day ahead of the actual happening, as was the case of the Japanese attack on the Phillipines, which was, because of the time differential, given to the American public December 7, whereas the attack actually took place December 8.

What country before ever existed a century and a half without a rebellion? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.
—Thomas Jefferson

War Interpretations

By Robert L. Freeland

LIBYA
Libya was a part of the great imperialistic dream of Il Duce which was to comprise most of Africa and those lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. It was from Libya that he organized and equipped the Fascist legions which after several months of hard fighting managed to overrun Ethiopia, at that time defended by a small army of native tribesmen poorly armed and trained. Italian Eritrea was also used as a base for this operation. Ethiopia was renamed Abyssinia and proudly added to the Italian Empire. This was in 1935.

When Italy entered the war in June, 1940, little did Mussolini envision that a year later he would no longer hold Ethiopia or Eritrea and that his troops in Libya, which with the aid of small German detachments had crossed the Egyptian border and ad-

vanced a short distance to Sidi Barrani, would be driven back past Bengasi and would be fleeing towards Tripoli. British General Wavell, a brilliant tactician, with a greatly inferior force, both in numbers and equipment, had accomplished this feat mainly because the Italians had been afraid to fight in the desert and lacked good commanders.

Britain had made pledges of assistance to tiny Greece, and when this country was attacked along with the rest of the Balkans, the English had built up a BEF in Greece, but to do this it was necessary to deplete General Wavell's African Corps both in men and more precious materiel. While this was happening, the German General Staff was not inactive with respect to Africa. Sending convoys from Italy, the built up a large panzer force supplemented by strong units of the Luftwaffe in Libya, mostly being landed at Tripoli. Then German General Erwin Rommel was placed in command of the Italo-German forces in Libya. This man is undoubtedly one of the cleverest and most able generals to come to the front in this war or in any war, more than a match for the British Ace, Wavell. In 30 days he succeeded in driving the British back across the burning desert into Egypt and then was stopped by the British defense lines at Salum. All of the British gains had been wiped out with the exception of a "suicide squad" composed of Australians, New Zealanders, and Polish troops which were entrenched at Tobruk.

The dry season came to the desert, which has little rain at any time, and all active fighting stopped. During this time, the British were able to land large quantities of supplies, sent from America, at Red Sea ports and supplement their man power with fresh troops sent from India and Australia and also those released after Syria was taken from the French. The British held a rather firm grip on the Mediterranean Sea, although they had lost Crete.

General Cunningham was placed in command, and he attacked as soon as the heat diminished near the end of 1941. The Tobruk garrison, which had held out against repeated Axis attacks was relieved, and again the German Afrikakorps was driven back to Bengasi. Convoy after convoy left Italian ports in an attempt to relieve Rommel, but a large percentage of these fell prey to the British on the way. Then came the Japanese attack in the Orient, and again troops and supplies had to be taken from Libya by the British, and especially aircraft.

Evidently some large Axis convoys succeeded in reaching Libya, possibly by way of French Tunisia, for once again Rommel has driven the British out of Bengasi, and at latest reports his columns are only 45 miles from Tobruk, although the English forces are still as far west as Msus on the interior of the desert. Whether Rommel will be able to continue his drive is a matter of speculation, but it seems that the British have sufficient forces in Egypt and the German supply lines would be too long to constitute any real threat to the Suez Canal. Only time will tell.

A little neglect may breed mischief; for want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost.
—Benjamin Franklin

The World Turns On

By Dr. R. W. Steen

The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred two months ago today. Since that date the Japanese have used all of their strength and all of their energies to capitalize on the advantage they gained by that bit of treachery. They have done well, but they have not won the war. Malaya is in their hands and Singapore is under siege. Except for an island and a peninsula they have won control of the Phillipines. They are striking into Burma, and have occupied some of the Dutch islands as well as several small islands near Australia.

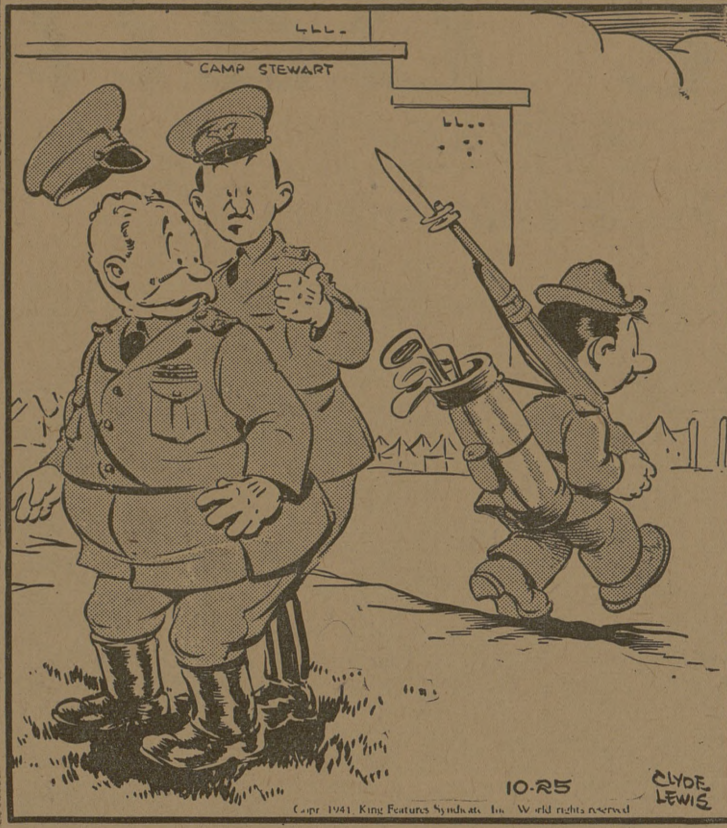
There is, fortunately, another side to the story. American and British troops and supplies are arriving in the Pacific, and the resources of America and Britain are enormously greater than those of Japan. America and Britain can send men and supplies when Japan has no more to send. There is another matter which merits consideration. That is the fact that in two months of warfare the Japanese have themselves suffered heavy naval losses, and even greater losses to their merchant marine. They are fighting a war in which men and supplies must be moved over long sea lanes. Their merchant marine was never very large, and the loss of each ship weakens by just that much their ability to transport troops to new places and to supply troops already in action.

In two years of warfare Germany and Italy have captured almost nothing in the way of British territory. In two months of warfare the Japanese have captured much territory over which the British flag usually flies. In spite of this evidence of striking power on the part of the Japanese, Americans and Britons are probably justified in their belief that the major enemy is Germany.

In the two months since Pearl Harbor slightly more than 100,000 Americans have enlisted in the navy. The progress of enlistment has been so satisfactory that the navy is now planning to depend upon voluntary enlistments to provide all of the men that it needs.

A four-year-old named Gerry King gained much publicity by his exploit at the President's birthday dinner. It seems that Dorothy Lamour was also there, and she favored Gerry with a kiss. Gerry replied by cracking her on the nose and declaring "I don't want that red stuff on my side!"

PRIVATE BUCK By Clyde Lewis



"I wonder if we were wise in assigning Buck to do guard duty near the golf course!"

BACKWASH

By Charlie Babcock

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

Aggie Pickin's

That's the name of that program of swing and jive which you heard over WTAW's Clambake Friday between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

With "Chuck55 Chalmers' suggestion for a name, and the cadet corps' cooperation, the weekly campus poll of favorite modern tunes should prove to be a great hit.

All Aggies are eligible to submit their ballots for the three songs which they think are tops for the week and the first ten cadets sending in ballots with the winning three numbers receive passes to the Campus theater. Deadline for voting each week is at Thursday noon, and the ballot box is in the rotunda of the Academic building.

Duncan Enlists In US Army Air Corps

George P. Duncan of Ennis, a graduate of A. & M. has enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Duncan enlisted in the Air Corps at Shepherd Field, Wichita Falls. He will also receive a large part of his training there.

Nine boys won passes this week, the initial program of the series.

The three top tunes played yesterday on the Clambake were, in order of their rank, as follows: "Blues in the Night," "Moonlight Cocktail," and "A String of Pearls."

Honorable mention should go to "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Elmer's Tune," "White Cliffs of Over," "Rose O' Day," and "Shrine of St. Cecilia."

WHAT'S SHOWING AT GUION HALL

Saturday — "DOWN IN RIO," featuring Bonita Granville and Dan Dailey, Jr.

Monday—"DIVE BOMBER," with Errol Flynn and Fred MacMurray.

AT THE CAMPUS
Saturday—"MOONLIGHT IN HAWAII," with Johnny Downs and Jane Frazee.

Saturday preve, Sunday Monday — "LOOK WHO'S LAUGHING," starring Charlie McCarthy, Edgar Bergen, Fibber McGee and Molly, and Lucille Ball.

COVERING campus distractions

WITH TOM VANNOY

Are your Saturday nights becoming monotonous? If this is your plight, then the solution to the problem is to drop in at the Assembly Hall tonight about 7 o'clock and have a good time with entertainment furnished by the all-girl orchestra from TSCW and the Singing Cadets under the direction of Richard Jenkins. The beauty of the whole thing is that there is no admission charge for the evening's entertainment. All you have to do is go, and a good time is promised you.

The audience participation program is a part of the events tonight in addition to the other attractions.

The spring semester social season gets rolling in grand style tonight with the corps dance in Shisa Hall at 9 o'clock with the Aggie-land orchestra furnishing the music. The all-girl orchestra from up Denton way will appear at the intermission time with the taoinn performance on the screen in the film also. Hollywood's outstanding contribution to the cast is Lucille Ball as Bergen's secretary who has been left in the city while Bergen, the radio entertainer, takes a vacation in the country to get away from it all.

McGee is president of the local chamber of commerce and has the usual sort of troubles in getting the city to acquire some prestige. It is all very well put together and although the plot is slightly sketchy, the show is most entertaining.

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Campus

Dial 4-1181

LAST DAY "MOONLIGHT IN HAWAII"

with Johnny Downs -- Jane Frazee Short -- Community Sing -- News

PREVIEW TONIGHT AFTER DANCE

SUNDAY AND MONDAY Go in at 9:45, See Both Shows

Now They're On The Screen!

Also
INFORMATION PLEASE
NEWS — POPEYE

LOUPOT'S

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BIG SAVINGS

BEST EATS AND DRINKS

Come to
NEW YORK CAFE
Bryan

YOUR BOM-BAY BOOT PANTS AND SLACKS

are starched and pressed properly at Holick's

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Pants . . . cleaned and pressed 20c
All Buttons Replaced Free

HOLICK CLEANERS

Ben Youngblood, Mgr.

Movie GUION HALL

Saturday -- 1 p.m. -- 6:45 and 8:30
GRANVILLE -- DAILEY

in
"Down In San Diego"
COMEDY
Also
MARCH OF TIME—
"Sailors With Wings"
★ ★ ★

MONDAY and TUESDAY
Afternoon and Night
WEDNESDAY
Afternoon

"Dive Bomber"

Get Your Y Card at the YMCA
Front Desk

SATURDAY NIGHT SHOW CONTEST

(Only Aggies Eligible)

I suggest the following name for the Free Shows given in the Assembly Hall on Saturday nights:

(please print)

Signed _____

Address _____ (Hall) _____ (Room) _____ (Mailing Address)

Send entry to Student Activities Office, 126 Administration Bldg., or leave at Show on Saturday, Feb. 7. Contest Closes Feb. 10th, 5 p. m.

DR. T. O. WALTON, JR.

Announces Opening

College Medical Center

Phone 4-1198

Dr. T. T. Walton (Office Hours) A.M. 7:30-9:00 P.M. 7:30-9:00 (Except Wed.)

Dr. L. O. Wilkerson (Office Hours) 1:00-2:00 P.M. (Except Thursday)