

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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start off the lines at a rate unthinkable at the present time. With the army, navy and engineering making as many as 3,000 changes in design in a single month, minute as these changes may be, it is disruptive of any sound program of production. This condition still persists. When we can have one model per plant and everyone from the janitor to the president can say 'This is ours,' production will flow like water from a faucet. When the automotive industry learned that it had to go back to master designs to meet competition, cars became not only cheaper but were of better quality. After this war the average man will be able to own his own plane if he can meet the cost of repair, which largely means interchangeability of parts. The day of tailor-made airplanes should be long past." Thomas A. Watson, associate in mechanic arts at the University of California.

Man, Your Manners

By I. Sherwood

Flower Courtesies: Flowers are a lovely, gift, suitable for many occasions, Easter, Mother's Day, birthdays, in fact, there is scarcely a situation imaginable in which flowers are not the most suitable as well as most beautiful messengers of love, friendship or sympathy that can be sent.

Corsages: One of the small courtesies extended most frequently, by young men to girls, is that of sending a corsage for a dance. Corsages are not expected for the less formal dances — only the "special" ones. (Whether you give one or not depends upon your pocketbook).

The choice of colors and flower combinations rests with the man, but there is nothing amiss about asking the girl what color flowers she prefers—it is considered a bit nicer to find out some other way. The man must decide whether he wishes to make his selection or leave it to the florist—florists are pretty helpful in making suggestions.

It is preferable to send the corsage, if possible, instead of taking it; the girl should be wearing it when she greets you at the door.

Gardenias make a lovely corsage—two are ample, but if you want a lasting corsage as well as a beautiful one, decide on carnations.

War Interpretations

By Robert L. Freeland

Total War and Defense
We hear much in these days of international strife and unrest of such words as total war and total defense. It therefore seems appropriate in this column this week to clarify these statements.

Total war means a complete mobilization of all people, resources and industrial capacities of a nation to make and support the war machine. The men in the factories are on the front line of the battle of production and are just as important as the men in the trenches of the front line using their products. The entire civilian population, man, woman and child, must be trained to work to support the fighting men in uniform.

Modern war is a battle of production and a battle of transportation. It is a battle of machines. It is ruthless and fast, and knows no distinction between civilians and soldiers—they all die and die fast and in large numbers. It is best expressed by the German "Blitzkrieg," or lightning war, which is now a part of the vocabularies of all languages. Its aim and purpose is to crush the enemy completely within the shortest possible time, culturally, economically and politically. Then the conqueror puts the facilities of the conquered to work for him.

Everyone must be ready when "Der Tag" comes. This type of war was devised and used in its most efficient and ruthless form by the present day Germany, the Wehrmacht taking one country after another. And we, too, must become masters of total war and beat the originators at their own game.

The answer to total war is total defense. As soon as a nation becomes involved in a total war, unless it is well prepared for that kind of war, it must immediately go on a total defense basis until it is able to build up its stock of materials and trained manpower to be able to attack and defeat the aggressor in an offensive. At present we in the United States are in this stage of building up and defending ourselves until we are strong enough to attack. Total defense entails all of the things which must be used to make total war, full use of the entire population, industrial, transport and manufacturing facilities.

Rationing and restrictions must be placed upon many if not all goods to insure an equal distribution among all classes of people and to conserve those things which are needed by the armed forces. Producers of durable and non-durable goods must be converted to the production of things necessary for the defense of the country and later for the offensive. Production must be put on a 24 hour a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year basis.

The best defensive is a successful attack. And at present the United States and her Allies throughout the world are planning on the following basis:
1942—Defense, retooling, producing.
1943—Offense; attack.
1944—Victory.

Let us hope and pray that we will be able to stick to this schedule, but if we are to do it we must all buckle down and forget such things as the 40 hour week and no work on Sundays!

PRIVATE BUCK By Clyde Lewis



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"That washing-machine outfit was determined to get a sub-contract!"

BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

Sob Story

Add this true story to the list of Aggie "open road" experiences: Two Aggies (names withheld) were motorcycleing back to College from Houston last Sunday night. Just on the other side of Hempstead, the dark night began to close in. All was well—until they discovered they had no lights on the machine. So they parked it at a nearby tonk and undertook to thumb it back to school. But Mr. Henderson, taxes, war, and things in general, said "No"—rides were just not to be had. Then a nice freight train slowed down too much and the boys were, at last, on their way back. They looked out of the box car after awhile and saw a station sign reading "Brenham"—a little off the beam. So they jumped off at Giddings and started back via another train. This time they landed in Hearne—end of the line. They tried thumbing it again here, but Lady Luck laughed—up her sleeve. Back in the train yards they hopped another one just leaving. This time Lady Luck bellowed up her sleeve—the train traveled about one-fourth mile and backed back into the yard. But the boys were hell-bent on coming back so they tried again. This time things looked good—the train sped toward College at 70 m.p.h. And it sped right through College without losing one m.p.h.—nobody likes a broken neck. Came the dawn and the train arrived in Hempstead (this town looked familiar). The travelers went out to the tonk, got their motorcycle, and rode back to school in broad daylight.

Fifty-two per cent of college students interviewed in a recent survey said they own typewriters.

Backwashin' Around

Captain Carl Gerlach Sory and Patricia Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Osborn S. Johnson of Bryan, will trod the middle-aisle on May 16—Captain Sory is having a few mumps at the present. . . . According to chief chow man Hotard, each Aggie eating in the mess halls is putting away an extra dime worth of food per day—since the reveille order went into effect—and that amounts to some 500 bucks a day on the ham-and-egg front. . . . tomorrow's the big day for the Singing Cadets—they record for the Pleasuretime Contest with a trip to N. Y. as the bounty. . . . "Knuckle-hair" tells one about the guy, now battling his head against padded walls, that claims the Japs couldn't have taken Java. . . . after all, he said, the Japs have always been known as tea drinkers, and what would they want with java?

Role of Louisiana In Confederacy Is Subject of New Book

BATON ROUGE, La. (ACP)—Aspects of Louisiana's role in the War Between the States are featured in Jefferson Davis Bragg's "Louisiana in the Confederacy," just published by the Louisiana State university Press. The State's tradition of heroism and endurance is recorded completely for the first time in Mr. Bragg's new work. Those who shudder at rising prices today might consult Louisiana veterans who remember 1863, when butter cost \$5 a pound, beans \$2.50, apples 50 cents each, and a subscription to the Shreveport "Semi-Weekly News" \$30 a year.

Don't Lower Our Standards

Several Aggies are known to have hopped freight trains recently when, because of decreased volume of traffic, they found difficulty in hitch-hiking. This practice is not only a violation of the laws of the state and the rules of the college, it is a breach of Aggie tradition.

For many years Aggies have been admired by the motorists of Texas for their courtesies on the road, and rides were easy to secure. Now with the tire shortage and fewer cars on the road, travel via the thumb has become increasingly difficult. Asking rides from Aggie fans is one thing; stealing rides on trains is another.

Not only is hopping freights dangerous, it is illegal and unbecoming an officer; certainly not befitting of the A. & M. reputation which has been years in the building. Shall we permit the people of the state to lose their respect for us, because a certain minority among us straggles into a town bedraggled and dirty from a long ride on the rails?

About That Speed-Up

Concentrated college programs designed to turn out B. A. and B. S. degree-holders in two and a half to three years are being instituted on many campuses. As an emergency measure, the speedup technique has won wide acclaim. One of its phases, however, has been overlooked by many commentators, and that is the weakened condition of the student's pocketbook.

First statistics that have come to hand on this phase of the speedup are contained in a family economics survey bulletin of Northwestern National Life Insurance company. This bulletin points out, for instance, that because 70 per cent of them rely heavily on income of summer jobs to finance their schooling, University of Minnesota men students probably will find it difficult to take the speedup courses proposed to graduate them before army induction.

The survey report foresees nationwide difficulty among students at colleges adopting the concentrated programs.

The Minnesota survey revealed that 51 per cent of men students earn an average of \$20 a month toward education expense during the school year, and 70 per cent earn an average of \$200 a summer.

Nationwide figures assembled by the company showed net summer earnings for school expenses average \$114 to \$230 a student in schools reporting. The report points out further that if students are to study 12 months a year, instead of eight or nine, they will find expenses increased 40 to 50 per cent a year, in addition to losing their summer earnings.

As shortening of courses increases, schools "expect heavier demands on student loan and scholarship funds, and multiplied problems for student employment bureaus," the bulletin declared.

Quotable Quotes

"In the college of tomorrow, there will be a minimum of lecturing and quizzing of students, a maximum of discussion and quizzing of teachers. It is as easy to get through the eye of a needle as to acquire an education by merely listening to lectures."—Dr. William P. Tolley, president of Allegheny college.

"The parable of the last ship at Wake is America's biggest lesson. The defenders on the island managed to create one more plane out of the fragments of many different models and send it into the air. It was not a job of assembling; it was one of sheer creation. And it was done under fire. We must have interchangeable parts for our airplanes if we are to meet production schedules. We must develop master tooling and master gauges. The government must freeze designs with all possible speed. Then production can

ANIMAL ODDITIES

By Tex Lynn

Dining the Python
In far-off Malaya is found the world's largest snake, a snake that kills by crushing its victims in its powerful coils. This undisputed ruler of the jungle is the Reticulated Python; it is not unusual for these heavyweights of snakedom to reach a length of 27 feet and a body-weight of four hundred pounds!

Before importations of these monsters was stopped by the war, Frank Buck, in his New York Jungle Camp, had the finest collection of pythons in the country—three of them were over 23 feet in length, and one giant was a bit shy of reaching the astounding length of 27 feet.

A great, glass enclosed "pit" was constructed to house these Malayan visitors. In this pit were erected two twelve-foot trees, complete with branches so as to resemble as much as possible the jungle habitat; in the center of the pit was a large, concrete pool to which the snakes would retire during the hot summer months.

As can be well-understood, these reptiles were quite valuable, and every precaution possible was taken to insure their health. It

was our practice to feed and examine them monthly—strange as it sounds, these snakes could do very well by receiving just one meal per month. This trick of fasting, however, should not be tried by anyone not familiar as to how to go about it.

In order to feed and examine the snakes, it necessitated taking them out bodily and stretching them at full length on the concrete walk. Six to eight handlers were chosen for this job, and split-second timing, as in football, was necessary in order to prevent any injuries among the men.

Cole Smith, an expert snake handler, would enter the pit, grasp a recumbent snake behind the head, and before the latter knew what was happening it would be securely held by the men waiting outside the pit.

Each handler would be responsible for his own yardage, and (See ODDITIES, page 6)

Campus

Dial 4-1181

TODAY ONLY "TYPHOON"

with ROBERT PRESTON DOROTHY LAMOUR LYNN OVERMAN

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FRIDAY - SATURDAY

SWAMP WATER

with WALTER BRENNAN ANNE BAXTER DANA ANDREWS

Also News - D. Duck Cartoon Musical



"We're backing them up"

Marching right along with the armed forces of this country are thousands of telephone workers.

They work side by side with the Army and Navy. Wherever the need is communications, you are likely to find telephone men and their trucks and materials.

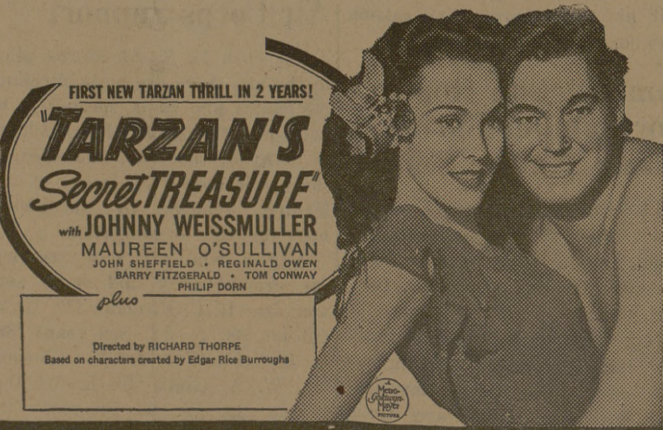
Day and night the order is for speed and more speed.

They wear no uniforms, these telephone workers, but men in uniform know how much they are putting into the Nation's biggest job. They see it first-hand and they know it is first-rate.

MOVIE GUION HALL

Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27

4:30 and 7:45



News - - - - - Comedy

