

# The Battalion

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

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## Penny's Serenade

By W. L. Penberthy

I got a kick out of a story I heard concerning Max Baer, former world's heavyweight boxing champ. The story goes that he was taking a pretty bad beating in one of his bouts, but his seconds were trying to keep him encouraged, so when he came to his corner after a particularly bad round, his seconds said, "Nice going, Maxie—he hasn't laid a glove on you." To this Maxie replied, "Then somebody had better watch that referee, because someone is beating the tar out of me!"

Our intramural boxing started Thursday and will continue for about three weeks. This sport always attracts a lot of interest and I want to take this opportunity to cordially invite all Batt readers and their friends, especially the ladies, to attend the matches. They start at 8:30 p. m. and approximately 35 are held each night.

Our matches consist of three one-minute rounds with a minute rest period between the rounds. If one of the boxers is knocked cleanly down or is "out on his feet" the round is stopped, awarded to the boxer scoring the knock-down, and after a one-minute rest period the bout is resumed if both boxers are in good shape. If the bout becomes uneven, it is stopped, although every effort is made to give both men a fair chance before this is done.

The purpose of the bout is to give competition and to determine the best boxer, and after that is decided we are not interested in seeing how much punishment a man can take. Our students may lack a little in technique, due to the fact that most entrants have not had much instruction, but they make up for it in the way they go in there and mix it. Fourteen-ounce gloves are used.

The winner is decided by three judges picked from the student body for their knowledge of the sport. For the most part, these judges are boxers entered in the tournament and they do a fine job. Points to be considered in judging are the number of clean solid blows landed, ability to make the opponent miss, aggressiveness if it pays off, and ring generalship. The last round carries more weight toward the decision than either of the other two, but not more than the two combined.

The average boxing audience fails to see blows that are not landed on the head and often do not understand why decisions are made in favor of a boxer who apparently received the most blows on the head. Although head blows are damaging, I think most boxers will agree that where head blows can be shaken off, the body blows are the ones that are felt the most and the longest, and are the ones that pave the way for victory. I suggest that you watch the boxer's feet, as balance is the most important thing in all sports, as well as in everyday life. Also watch where each blow lands. If my memory serves me right, it was Jim Corbett's wife who insisted on sitting at the ringside at all of his matches and kept pleading, "Hit him in the slats, Jim!"

## PRIVATE BUCK . . . By Clyde Lewis



"If you ask me, I think the Colonel is letting the men get too much of an upper hand around here!"

## BACKWASH . . . By Jack Hood

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

Campus Spooks  
Two years ago there were only a few bold entrants in the Ugly Boy contest. This year each of eleven Aggies claim to be uglier than anyone (not counting profs) on the campus. By process of elimination the Signal Corps and the Cavalry must be the glamour boys of the campus—they didn't enter an ugly. Eyesores from the Field Artillery are: R. C. "Hard-rock" Loomis, 2 CHQ, George Willeford, 2HQ, George "Profile" Ogden, A FA, L. B. "Butch" Tension, C FA, Kyle Drake, D FA. From the Coast Artillery: Sol Mintz, G CAC, and George Kemnitz, G CAC. Infantry spooks are J. P. "Possie" Alford, D Company, J. B. Strother, K Company. The Engineers entered R. P. Burke, C Company. The Chem Warfare entered Clarence "Boy I'm Ugly" Cunningham, C Company, and Ternay Neu, C Company. With this many candidates, things should get hot quick. Most of the hally-hoo will be handled by campaign managers, but all the contestants will meet on the "Y" steps at 1:45 Tuesday to have a group picture taken (maybe for the museum).

Backwashin' Around  
The Local Rumor mill has turned out some pretty good yarns . . . the latest is the one about the Engineers having to move out of Walton to make way for the Navy . . . some sharp Engineer pitched a pup tent in front of Walton and labeled it "Engineers Dorm" . . . one Aggie who doesn't do things half way is the lad who was seen using a pair of field glasses sweating the west door of Sbis Friday night . . . allegedly, an Aggie told another who tried to tag in on him at the Corps dance Saturday night, "Sorry, buddy, but with the war, and rationing, and everything, I'm hoarding my sugar" . . . which brings to mind: with the coming of rationing, the gold diggers will take to hoarding sugar daddies . . . a fish got a letter from his girl asking him if it would be o.k. for her to write a Marine. The fish thought awhile and decided to ask the advice of (See BACKWASH page 6)

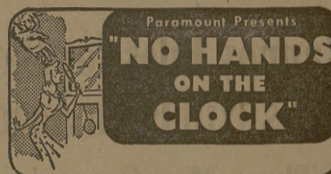
## ANIMAL ODDITIES

BY Tex Lynn

THE TRUTH ABOUT SNAKES  
Snake mythology began with the ancients; in fact, if we go back far enough we will find that Adam and Eve started the first of the many tall stories about snakes. In the middle-ages snakes were not a small part of the mysterious art of concocting cure-alls. In a great Hindu literary work of antiquity found the legend that serpents produce from their mouths fleecy clouds which supply fresh water for the gods, and it is said that Saint Augustine believed serpents to be reincarnated devils sent by Satan for the purpose of temptation. In the present day of radio, television, and Stukas we have tales concerning snakes that are scarcely less fantastic. Stories are told about the martial devotion of snakes, which alleges that if a snake is killed, its mate will lie near a cadaver in silent grief, but will instantly attack anyone so bold as to trespass near that hallowed spot. The myths that all green snakes are poisonous; that some snakes possess the power of hypnosis, and can hypnotize poor, defenseless birds; and that a snake's tail will writhe and wriggle until the sun sets in the west are as foolish and baseless as the idea that lightning does not strike twice in the same spot. Farmers of today are hardly the goateed rustics once portrayed. They keep up with all the latest information put out by the various experiment stations, listen to the farm and home hour, and even send their sons to state Agricultural Schools; yet they have not parted with the milk-snake legend. They could as readily part with their best mare. This villainous snake is credited with nocturnal visitations to the dairy herd, where it busies itself in stealing the cow's hard-earned milk. The stealthy intruder glides through the grass, lifts its beady head, and drinks quart after quart of the precious fluid, and when the farmer returns, he finds his best producers dry and restless. It makes but little difference to the farmer that snakes are anatomically incapable of such performances; that most snakes dislike milk; or that it would take 50 such snakes to drain a cow dry. (See ODDITIES, page 5)



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## Dorms and Parents Day

So far the student body has given little detailed thought to Parents' Day next Sunday. True, most of the Aggies have written their parents concerning the events and perhaps have made a few plans concerning the day's activities. However, such things as the appearance of the dormitories and reports to the organization commanders about the number of visitors to be present have hardly been mentioned.

One thing which should receive attention immediately is the appearance of the dorms. Sunday will be the one day of the year in which all of our parents and friends will be allowed to visit our rooms and halls. Naturally we want our living quarters to make the best appearance possible, and this can be done only if work is started immediately.

The work on the halls necessary falls under the heading "that which is beneficial to the entire organization" and may be done by the freshmen under the supervision of the upperclassmen. Therefore there should be enough men who do not have classes in each organization every day this week to make the dormitories appear at their best on Parents' Day.

Fame, we may understand, is no sure test of merit, but only a probability of such. —Thomas Carlyle

## Personal Appearance

PERSONAL APPEARANCE is one of the most important things for a person to look out for and try to improve both in civilian and military life but especially in the latter. People judge you by what you look like. If you are neat, trim and smart in appearance, you will make a good first impression which is so important. However, if sloppy, ill-dressed and dirty, it is seldom that your superiors will think much of you.

We on the campus adopt the same attitude, whether we realize it or not. Although we may not like a certain officer, if he is always well dressed and military in appearance, we will respect him and try to do what he wants. However, if the officer is sloppy, doesn't return your salutes properly, and walks with a slouch, we may like him personally but won't respect him.

A person who is in a uniform and is sloppy will attract much more attention and discredit to himself and the uniform than will a civilian. At the same time, if he is neat and clean and has all of his brass shined and properly attached he will draw much favorable comment.

Lately, there seems to have been an epidemic on the campus, not of the mumps, but of leaving collars unbuttoned, having shoes covered with mud, brass dirty, and uniform not clean, to say nothing of haircuts so long it brings to mind the old joke about the dog-catcher. People who visit the campus, especially at this time of year when parents are inspecting the institution where their sons expect to attend for the next semester, are very unfavorably impressed if the cadets here have a sloppy appearance in general, for one badly dressed and unkept cadet will attract much more notice than a hundred people properly dressed and attended.

It seems that it will be to the advantage of every student here, including the five-year men and post-grads, to do his best to appear neat and military at all times, for it will not only leave a good impression with visitors and those whom you meet off the campus but will also tend to boost the morale of the student body as a whole; the non-reg and sloppy cadet should be looked upon with scorn and contempt by the rest of the cadet corps, instead of them trying to imitate him just "because he got away with it."

Who ever hears of fat men heading a riot, or herding together in turbulent mobs? No, no, 'tis your lean, hungry men who are continually worrying society, and setting the whole community by the ears. —Washington Irving

## The World Turns On

By Dr. R. W. Steen

Last week "Science" cited the contents of a wireless dispatch from Raymond Daniell to the "New York Times." This dispatch reported that the British Minister of Agriculture, Robert S. Hudson, stated on March 18 in the House of Commons that the future history of Britain and perhaps of the world might depend on this year's harvest in the United Kingdom.

England's meat supplies are rapidly dwindling and the submarine warfare in the Atlantic is reducing the merchant tonnage. The British people are depending more and more on vegetables. At the end of the present plowing season England will have about 6,000,000 more acres of tilled soil than before the war. This increase is insufficient to meet the dietary deficiencies and substitutions required because of the meat shortages. It becomes necessary that greater production be obtained from land already cultivated.

Experts from the United States are being sent to England for consultation as to ways of increasing production. Practically all the available land is now being used but there is a noticeable shortage of manpower. Women are going into the fields and helping with the farm work. Life magazine has carried several articles on this phase of England's war production program. Stenographers, secretaries and various other women workers in their off periods go into the fields to aid in planting, cultivation and harvesting of the crops. This spring and summer will take many school children into the fields and prisoners of war will undoubtedly be made use of for this purpose also.

We in the United States are as yet suffering no particular food shortages but as the war continues they will come because of the slowness of expansion, short-sighted agricultural policies including inadequate conservation of our present surpluses, and shortage of farm labor. Already we are feeling the pinch of farm labor shortage.

In the south, one of our big labor users is the harvesting of the cotton crop. For a number of years workers here at Texas A. and M. College have been working on mechanical cotton pickers. Credit for this work goes to Mr. H. P. Smith, D. T. Killough, M. H. Byrom and their associates. Farm labor shortage makes the development of such a mechanism of added importance at this time. These mechanical harvesters are of two types—pickers and strippers.

HELLO!

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