

The Battalion

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

Aggies have always been proud that as individuals they don't stand out as typical "Joe Colleges," but for the exes its another story. A. & M. former students are probably the most typical of their kind that can be found any place in the United States and if ever the term "Joe Ex" comes into general use the A. & M. former students will be the personification.

Alumni of all institutions occasionally like to refer back to the "good old days" when they were students. But who has ever met an ex-Aggie that didn't use such a subject as a continual topic?

"Why, you boys today have it easy. Now, when I was a student . . ." and so far into the night the slightly colored tales reel forth. Students listen with their mouths wide open and are almost happy that they didn't have to attend back in the good old days. Little do these present undergraduates realize that within a few short months a new fish class will have to listen to their slightly colored tales about their good old days which have just passed.

Then the ex likes to reminisce even further if he has the chance. He likes to have the opportunity to go back to his old room in Foster, Ross or one of the other dorms and see where he once spent long and hard hours burning the midnight oil. It brings back a lot of wonderful memories, memories of things which can't be regressed but are being relived by the present student body. No, tears don't come to the eyes of these grey haired Texas gentlemen who now are the leaders of the Lone Star state, but when they stop and gaze into the room which was once theirs you can bet your bottom dollar that a lump wells in their throat.

As typical of college ex-students as A. & M. former students are, there is one thing which makes ex-Aggies stand head and shoulders above the rest. That one thing is that an A. & M. man is an A. & M. man for ever. His loyalty to his school never ceases. There is no such thing as a fair weather Aggie who only claims his school when the football teams are outstanding. A. & M. men are proud of their school always and fight for it continually as have all former students since the gates of Aggrieland swung open 65 years ago.

Guayule

During the past few weeks word has gradually come to the front that A. & M. is making plans for another great contribution to national defense. Others schools and private institutions have been working on the same project and have been premature announcements, but unheralded men at A. & M. have worked and experimented with the guayule plant and the possibilities of processing rubber from it.

Those men who have been doing the preliminary work have been doing it on their own time and expense. They feel it is part of their contribution to national defense. Of course the college has given its approval for the work to be carried on, and President Walton, while in Washington, made arrangements for a grant to carry on the experiment if the preliminary reports are fully substantiated.

The plan of attack has been simple. It has been shown that rubber can be satisfactorily processed from guayule, but to date it has only been grown in special climates and in special areas. The plant itself takes several years to grow and it would take a lot of precious war time to be able to plant and raise this weed in the suitable areas. However, certain members of the Experiment Station have recognized that certain varieties of the guayule are abundant in our own state and feel that it is growing in a sufficiently concentrated area to be used commercially and thereby partially relieve the rubber shortage.

So far no definite claims have been made, but there are well founded hopes that the state of Texas and A. & M. in particular can make another contribution to national defense.

Something to Read

By Dr. T. F. Mayo

Just What Are We Defending?

As free material for the War Information Center trickles in, it is interesting to note how many different opinions exist as to what we are defending in this war. Most of this material is being sent, at the request of the Government, by organizations of Americans, each of which was formed to emphasize some one quality or tendency in our American scheme of things.

Frequently these organizations hate each other cordially. It is going to be rather amusing, for example, to see in our War Information Center, patriotic pamphlets from the National Association of Manufacturers and the League for Industrial Democracy standing cheek on the shelves. We hope that they won't set each other on fire!

The National Association of Manufacturers feels that this is a war "to defend American freedom." The League for Industrial Democracy, on the other hand, is militantly patriotic because equality of opportunity, in so far as we have it in the good old USA, is what is primarily at stake.

The NAM, consisting largely of wealthy business men, want to defend America because here a man can (more or less) "do as he likes with his own," and can get as rich as his abilities and opportunities permit with the minimum of interference from Society.

The League for Industrial Democracy, on the other hand, speaking habitually for the right of the little man to be protected against the big fellow, burns with desire to defend this country because it is, comparatively speaking, the land of equal opportunity.

Both groups are probably right. After all, these United States aim at Democracy, and Democracy consists of Freedom and Equality of Opportunity balanced against each other in such a way that neither destroys the other. Absolute Freedom, of course, would end shortly in the devouring of the little men by the big ones, to the complete abolition of equality of opportunity. Absolute Equality of Opportunity, on the other hand, could be maintained only by not only abolishing private ownership of the means of production, and all inheritances, but bringing up all kids together under identical conditions. And this sort of thing, most of us feel, would be an intolerable interference with individual freedom.

If we win, then, we keep our chance to make a real Democracy. If we lose, there just won't be any such chance, anywhere, any time.

Those that have china plates themselves are the most careful not to break the china plates of others.

—James Matthew Barrie

The World Turns On

By Dr. R. W. Steen

The Allies have suffered serious reverses during this week. The loss of Bataan, while expected, is a serious loss and cannot be made to appear in any other light. Perhaps it will arouse Americans more than any event that has taken place since Pearl Harbor. Throughout the Allied world there is great and undying admiration for the heroism of the forces which held the peninsula for months and then went down fighting. They fought a good fight, and in the end were beaten by disease and exhaustion as much as by waves of Japanese soldiers. Time is one of the most valuable items in the war plans of the Allies, and the valiant stand on Bataan has undoubtedly given the Allies valuable time in which to prepare for counter blows in the future. Bataan may well have been the Alamo of the war with Japan.

The British have lost two more cruisers and an aircraft carrier to Japanese planes. The loss of these vessels will weaken greatly any effort that Britain can make to fight the Japanese on the sea. The only naval gain to offset this is the sinking of an Italian cruiser in the Mediterranean. This is poor compensation, for Italian cruisers have proved to be of little value.

It was revealed on Thursday that American plants are now producing more than 3300 planes per month. British production is supposed to be well over 2,000 planes per month. There is no way of knowing how many planes the Germans are producing, but it is generally believed that their production is not more than 2500 planes per month. Italian production is low, and Japanese production is negligible. The Allies, with Russian production included, should thus be gaining about 3,000 planes per month in the race for control of the air. There should come a time in the near future when Allied ships and men can fight while friendly planes fly above them.

Developments of this week should impress Americans with the need for early victories. No American doubts that this country can win. What America needs to do is to win as quickly as possible. We are not doing our best when some industrialists think only in terms of outrageous profits, when some labor leaders think only in terms of new gains for labor, and when some farm organizations think only in terms of higher prices for farm products. Maybe it is time for all of us to decide that war should call for sacrifice by all citizens. It is barely possible that nobody should profit from a war.

Never give way to melancholy; resist it steadily, for the habit will encroach.
—Sidney Smith

Turning on the Heat



Lupe Velez's witchery soon has Kay Kyser in a daze, just a part of the plan to incapacitate Kay and thus prevent his debut as a Shakespearian actor in a scene from Campus Theater's midnight show "Playmates." The picture, starring Kay and featuring John Barrymore, Lupe Velez and Ginny Simms, will also play Sunday and Monday.

BACKWASH

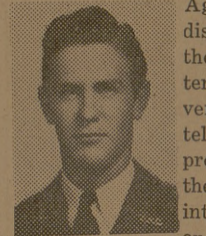
By Jack Hood

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

Back When - - -

Even back when J. B. Newton of Rockdale was in school here (1926-1927), the Aggies were pretty quick on the draw. He recalls this corps trip hangover:

On the train coming back from the Dallas corps trip, a couple of



Aggies suddenly discovered that they had forgotten to get a souvenir—even a hotel towel. So they proceeded to take the Negro porter into a little room on the train and "deuniform" him (a porter's uniform looks good hanging on the wall). The boys didn't have any trouble getting the uniform back to the hall—the porter was stranded without his pants and couldn't report the "accident." But no sooner than the railroad company had discovered the loss, hell began to break loose. There wasn't any two ways about it, they were going to get that uniform back—they thought. But they went about it the wrong way. The bull's office called in over a dozen seniors and made them O. D.s. Then started a thorough search of the halls. They surrounded one hall at a time and went through every crack and corner of every room. Just as they surrounded the last (guilty) hall, the (guilty) boys discovered that they were trapped. Down from the wall came the uniform—but they still didn't know what they were going to do with it, and the bulls were in the hall. At last, and none too early, they got an idea. Sprinkling the uniform with cleaning fluid, they burned it on the floor—all but the buttons, they left via a water route. When the officers came into the room and wanted to know what in hades they were burning, the boys came back, "Sir, the radiator is busted, and we're freezing to death."

Maybe the boys didn't get out of it, but it was a darn nice try.

Thou Shalt Not

Sugar is rationed. Tires cannot be bought (legally). A hot water bottle is a luxury. It even looks like we will become a bearded generation.

In an effort to keep students mentally balanced, and to conserve nervous energy, we hopefully submit ten commandments for the Aggies—and everybody:

1. Thou shalt not get ants in thy pants and foolishly enlist.
2. Thou shalt give up ideas of marrying Penny to escape the draft.
3. Thou shalt not develop lameness nor blindness, nor shall ye cut off thy trigger finger.
4. Thou shalt not burn the midnight oil just to save electricity.
5. Thou shalt not put the snatch on thy roommate's rubber bands.
6. Thou shalt not stop studying, but shall give it the works (assuming you've started).
7. Thou shalt not date the girl friend of thy boy friend who is in the army.
8. Thou shalt not covet thy brother's chevrons (or buttons, or diamonds).
9. Thou shalt not play too much boogie-woogie when patriotic songs are on the air.
10. Thou shalt button thy lip about war and keep it buttoned.

Present restrictions on college students really aren't too bad, asserts Dr. Frederick C. Waite, professor emeritus of history at Western Reserve university.

When the college still was young, he said, students couldn't use tobacco, liquor or cider "which was over a week old."

"They were instructed to touch their hats when passing an instructor, but to tip them to women and professors," he said.

DO YOU HAVE THE SCHOOL ANNUAL FOR EACH YEAR THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HERE?

You should, because they contain pictures and memories of you and your friends of your college days.
IF NOT, COME BY

Student Activities Office

Administration Bldg.
And Buy Now At These Greatly Reduced Prices

1940 LONGHORN - \$2.50
1941 LONGHORN - \$3.50

"A TREASURE FOR THE FUTURE"

COVERING campus distractions WITH TOM VANNOY

A person who has come up spectacularly in the past few years is Robert Preston, currently to be seen in "PACIFIC BLACKOUT" at the Campus. He has been before the camera for about two years and has risen to the rank of stardom. He got his start in dramatic work in a Little Theater production at the age of 15. Preston hails from Newton Highlands, Mass., and he will be seen in the recently-released story of the South, "Reap the Wild Wind."

If it's delightful music you're seeking, and a dash of acting thrown in for good measure, then you are looking for "PLAYMATES" at the Campus tomorrow and Monday. The list of big-name actors is enough to insure an enjoyable motion picture with names such as Kay Kyser and his orchestra, John Barrymore, Ginny Simms, Lupe Velez, Patsy Kelly, and May Robson.

The whole story is sheer nonsense as far as making sense goes. It discourses on the efforts of two press agents to get their client, John Barrymore, on the air. To obtain some much-needed publicity The Great Profile agrees to teach the art of Shakespearian acting to the "Old Professor," Kay Kyser. Barrymore overacts his part, and Kyser underdoes his so they come out about even.

Ginny Simms plays a triple-threat offensive as the vocal, romantic and glamour girl leads simultaneously and she does right well at the job, too. To top things off, Kyser manages to produce a swing version of Romeo and Juliet. There is a little less music in this Kyser picture than in the previous two, but the comedy is spread around enough to make up the deficit.

A great story by Hollywood on the efforts of the government to train fighters for their air corps is "FLIGHT COMMAND" at Guion Hall today. Bob Taylor, Walter Pidgeon, and Ruth Hussey are in the spotlight in the picture. It is truly a fine effort in the dramatic line.

Robert Taylor, cocky as ever, is transferred from Pensacola to the Pacific coast to a squadron commanded by Pidgeon. Taylor meets Ruth Hussey, his wife and becomes very friendly with her before he

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE CAMPUS
Saturday—"Pacific Blackout," with Robert Preston and Martha O'Driscoll.
Saturday prelude, Sunday, Monday—"Playmates," starring Kay Kyser, John Barrymore and Ginny Simms.

AT GUION HALL
Saturday—"Flight Command," with Robert Taylor, Walter Pidgeon, and Ruth Russey.

Monday—"One Foot in Heaven," featuring Frederic March and Martha Scott.

MOVIE

GUION HALL

SATURDAY

2 p. m. -- 7:30 and 9:00

Robert Taylor -- Ruth Hussey

in

Flight Command

SELECTED SHORTS

COMING

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday

ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN