

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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The Daily Press

I have long thought it ironic that newspapers, which are referred to universally as unrivaled mediums for advertisers and advertising, should be the dumbest self-advertisers in the world. If they did a tenth as efficient a job for themselves as they do for their clients, the American public would realize how fortunate it is in its daily press . . . which it certainly doesn't now, and probably never will. The American daily press is conscientious to the last degree in informing and educating the public about everything under the sun—except the service which the American daily press itself performs for it.

Let us take Dec. 7 last, for an example. What I saw with my own eyes was little less than a miracle. Around 1:30 in the afternoon word came through that the Japanese were bombing Pearl Harbor: war had broken out. It was a Sunday, which meant that practically all the newspaper workers were at home. Yet by 4:50 that same afternoon there had been turned out of this plant a complete history book of the war up to date. To be sure, it wasn't called a history book. It was called an extra edition of a newspaper. Yet actually it was a history book—just that. It contained about as many words as the average small history text book. It gave a tremendously exhaustive coverage of the first several hours of perhaps the greatest war in the history of mankind.

Now I've had some experience with book publishing, having had two or three books published myself. You turn your manuscript in early in January, let us say, and you see the completed product in the book stores perhaps the following September. That gives an idea of the pace of normal book publication. But what are you to say of an institution which can pick up a war early on Sunday afternoon and whirr out a complete historical text-book on it before the afternoon is over?

The further miracle of this history book was that it wasn't written by one historian, but by dozens and scores of them situated in every part of the globe. One historian was writing his part of the book in Honolulu another in Manila, another in Washington, another in San Francisco, and so forth and so on. Though thousands of miles apart, all these historians jumped to their typewriters simultaneously, each turning out his individual chapter with the utmost rapidity, and within three or four hours—hours, mind you, not weeks or months—the material was all incorporated in a history book being circulated for sale on the streets. Not only that but trained analysts found time to contribute their bits, too, so that the final product was sifted, weighed, and intelligently interpreted by mature minds. This last was a safeguard against panic and a boon for the morale of the people. It steadied and sobered them almost without their knowing it. It gave them perspective even in the midst of shock.

Speaking as one who has lived a part of his life as a book writer, I must say that this was the most thrilling feat of publishing that I ever witnessed. The sheer flexibility of the daily newspaper is something I can never get over. You couldn't but think of this when around Dec. 10 you saw several of the weeklies coming limping in . . . sorry-looking issues prepared long in advance and ponderously discussing the possible outbreak of a war which had already been in existence for the better part of a week. It's the fashion among many persons of parts to speak lightly of daily newspapers, but that's a kind of flippancy to which I can never respond. However little the newspaper may awe other people, they certainly awe me.—By William J. McNally in the Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune.

If Prof. Karl Sax of Harvard's botany department has his way, all "fat, flabby, potbellied" university professors will take compulsory physical training.

Greek government-in-exile reports the University of Athens has been closed for an indefinite period because of serious student disturbances.

The World Turns On

By DR. C. C. DOAK

Connection—Last week it was pointed out that on the field of battle, little things often become matters of life and death. It was mentioned that if the dead could but speak to us and if we would but listen, the experiences of dead men could advise and counsel us.

From Pearl Harbor a roar of many voices comes hourly from beneath the waters. They cry, "Fat-headed smugness and ignorance of history murdered us. The history of the Russo-Japanese War told us how our only potential enemy in this area would behave. Port Arthur and Pearl Harbor and the negotiations leading up to each make parallel cases. Our advice to you, young man, is to learn and use the lesson of history. It is the story of how men have behaved and is, therefore, your best guide as to how men will behave. As you grow older keep your knowledge of history up to date and your guard up.

From Guam the voices say, "Politics and ignorance killed us. Sentimental parents with the vote but without knowledge of the value of outposts voted for those Congressmen who were loudest in the promises of never to send a dollar or a drop of blood to be spent on foreign soil. American parents thus set the stage, American Congressmen raised the curtain, and we American Sons acted out our bit in the farce of battle. Ignorance and politics has robbed us of the implements of our defense. Our advice to you, American Students, is to study—study materiel, study outposts, study tactics, study fortifications, and then put the defense of your outposts in the hands of men who are masters of these things rather than intrust them to politicians.

From Bataan the voices are confused. Some say, "Too late, and too little." Others say, "Lack of foresight, underestimation of the enemy, fifth column." Out of the confusion a voice says clearly, "Narrowness of the curriculum had a part in it. We were trained in technical fields. The curricula were so crowded with other things that there was no place for such studies as Health. We did well with the technique of arms, but when the question of survival came to hinge upon such things as nutrition, diseases, fatigue, medication, nervousness and other biological reactions to isolation and strain, we finally went down. It was malaria, dysentery, exhaustion. Even our leaders had not learned too much about these things as is shown by the fact that the bulk of the world's reserve of quinine was left in the East Indies."

From Singapore the voice says, "Race prejudice killed us. The white overlords of this area were anxious to keep the colored man in his place. They didn't even arm the valiant Chinese minority. At the first bomb, the frightened and defenseless natives took to the hills. They left crevices boats at the docks to be taken by the Japs. They left the fire engines unattended while the cities burned. They left bomb craters in the runways until the pilots, who should have been in the air, had to fill their own holes. They left the lord's kitchen vacant and his Scotch-and-soda un-iced. The total result was defeat and death for us and the loss of a hundred million potential fighting men to our cause. Our advice to you and to white peoples everywhere is to give up the luxury of race prejudice. Practice real democracy. Behave toward all peoples as America did toward the Filipino. Treated justly, the colored peoples will fight for you. It is Hitler who preaches the Aryan Myth. Do not again play into his hands."

From Capital to Campus

ACP's Jay Richter Reports from Washington

There's a job opportunity in Washington for college girls that is underrated—that of housewife. The state of affairs here is better than it may seem. There are nine men for every ten women, a figure authenticated by the Census Bureau. A more heart-warming prospect than the one-to-four ratio sometimes claimed. Most recent figures show the District of Columbia area has a low marriage rate, but no lower than a number of others, including the states of Delaware, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania — and California, strangely enough.

At any rate, Washington men are fair game. And not rationed—yet.

The President's recent executive order to federal agencies has important implications for college students. Briefly, the purpose is to convert government to war work—and that speedily—by loosening hiring requirements, and by facilitating transfers from agency to agency.

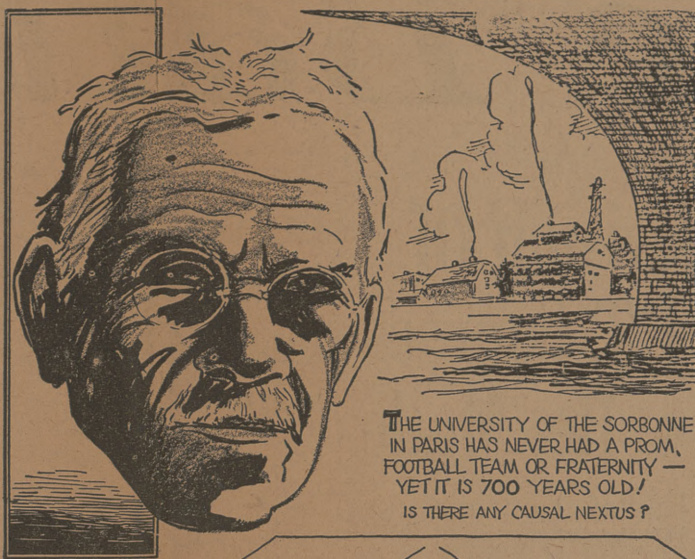
This means greater efforts than ever will be made immediately to put college people into jobs for which they are trained. And if they find their jobs do not suit their talents, the order makes it unnecessary for them to get their superior's permission to transfer to another agency—so long as the agency to which they are going is considered more important to the war effort than the one they are leaving.

Previously an agency could hold the employee who wanted to transfer. Some bureaucrats clung to the prerogative despite the urgency of war work in other agencies.

The order also does away with almost all Civil Service Commission examinations. Hiring will be done on the basis of training and experience.

One thing about the order, in case you are interested in long-term employment: new employes have no assurance their jobs will last once the war is at an end.

Kollegiate Kaleidoscope



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SORBONNE IN PARIS HAS NEVER HAD A PROM, FOOTBALL TEAM OR FRATERNITY — YET IT IS 700 YEARS OLD! IS THERE ANY CAUSAL NEXTUS?

DR. DAN FREEMAN BRADLEY, TRUSTEE OF OBERLIN COLLEGE FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, MISSED ONLY 5 OUT OF 68 MEETINGS OVER A PERIOD OF 30 YEARS!



SPOUSE TRAP! EIGHTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE GRADUATES OF STEPHENS COLLEGE ARE MARRIED FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION.

BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

Aggie Booster

Older students remember when the "George Stidham Fund" was established a few years ago to help an Aggie victim of an unavoidable accident. That fund, since changed to The Student Aid Fund, has done more than help many boys finish school who otherwise would have dropped out.

The purpose of the fund is helping Aggies foot bills which would otherwise result in their leaving school . . . like bills for operations not covered by the medical fee, or fitting glasses on eyes that can hardly see a book . . . The applicant signs a note, due when he thinks he will be able to pay it. (All names and transactions are confidential.)

But the fund has served another purpose . . . it has proved something that was always certain in many minds: The Aggies ARE trustworthy! Professor Dan Russell, a member of the committee, reports that payment of the notes are not only up-to-date; they are ahead! . . . Aggies who have been helped say "thanks" by paying their notes before the due date . . . And the committee can boast even more: R. C. Duren, a married student who worked his way through, and received aid from the fund, paid his \$106 note before it was due WITH an extra dividend to go into the fund.

It Must Be Good . . .

. . . when an Aggie-Ex has had some 54 years to think it over, and still thinks it's great.

Student Publications recently got a letter from Rufus C. Porter, San Pedro, California, which reads:

"Will you please send me a catalogue of your great institution? It is more than probable that I am one of the few students now left of the class of 1877-78."

Of Course . . .

the girls had nothing to do with it, but when a long, shiny car had a flat in front of the "Y" Sunday afternoon, Aggies swarmed to the rescue . . . the car was occupied by an elderly woman—and two pretty girls. Nine Aggies tried to fix the flat all at once . . . the girls sparked them on with smooth talk . . . whatta mess.

Sweepings

Quoth an English prof while reading his class some of their own papers: "The spelling in this paper is refreshingly original! . . . The plastering job in some of the

The American Classical League, world's largest classical organization, has transferred its headquarters from New York to the Joint University Library building in Nashville, Tenn.

Eighty strong, the first reserve officers training corps ski patrol in the United States formed ranks at the University of Wisconsin.

new dorms didn't hit par. One resident tells the story of dreaming of eating mess hall spinach, and waking up with a mouthful of ceiling plaster . . . Everybody got sweaty wet waiting for Kadet Kapers to begin in the Assembly Hall and the boys were "hot" with wisecracks also. One of the best was somebody's foghorn rendition of "B. O."

The Will Rogers . . .

. . . of the Piano is Henry Scott's billing . . . music critics claim he uses the piano in the same vein Will uses a rope.

One of Scott's down-to-earth selections, "Little Boy Genius Grows Up," pictures the progress of a spoiled darling of the keyboard from the time of his first recital at the age of five on thru his progress to the age of 85 (and still spoiled).

This Collegiate World

ACP

Music is the leading extra-curricular activity on the campus of Texas Christian university.

Though, because of numerous conference championships and bowl games, many persons might have guessed football as the main student interest, a survey discloses more than twice as many students participate in musical activities as in all intercollegiate athletic endeavors.

A total of 143 students this year are members of the Horned Frog band, the mixed chorus, the symphony orchestra and several smaller musical organizations.

Intercollegiate athletics attracted 61 boys, in football, basketball, baseball and track teams.

Shakespeare knew his stuff when it came to swordplay, for the dueling scenes and terms in his plays indicate a knowledge both of old broadsword and buckler and the newer rapier and dagger.

So says Horace S. Craig, associate in French on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California who recently wrote a pamphlet titled, Dueling Scenes and Terms in Shakespeare's Plays. Craig was captain of the U.C.L.A. fencing team in 1932-33 and later served as coach.

"To the multifarious knowledge attributed to Shakespeare we must add his understanding of dueling," declared Craig. "To his interesting vocabulary of technical terms we must append those which have to do with the sword. The terms employed are used accurately, unless he chooses by misuse to effect comedy."

Lou's Still Got What It Takes To Fill All Your School Supply Needs

COVERING campus distractions

By JACK KEITH

It's TOWN HALL tonight in Guion Hall. Henry Scott, famed pianist and humorist will appear in a program designed to interest Aggies and faculty members alike. Among the interpretations he will play tonight are: "Boogie Woogie a la mode 'Lux' Lewis," "Sewing on a Button," "Chopin in the Citrus Belt" and "Mitten on the Keys." Scott does his own arranging in most instances.

The success of the Corps Dance this Saturday night will determine whether or not we have such entertainment the rest of the summer. Let's make it a success by bringing that girl-back-home down for the week-end.

Abbot and Costello return to College Station this afternoon and tomorrow in the film "RIO RITA," showing at Guion Hall. As usual,



they'll have you in stitches from the start to the finish.

The plot of the movie leads Abbot and Costello in to a nest of Nazi spies, who, in the end, are neatly disposed of by the pair.

The scene is the Texas-Mexican border with a gigantic dude ranch as the setting. Romantic and musical interludes are furnished by Kathryn Grayson and John Carroll. Others in the supporting cast are Patricia Dane, Tom Conway, and Peter Whitey.

The Lowdown:—Abbot and Costello are in it—nuff said. "MOON OVER MIAMI" with Betty Grable, Carole Landis, Don Ameche and Robert Cummings will show as one of the features at the Campus Theater Tuesday and Wednesday.

Although a typical musical com-

edy, "Moon Over Miami" is somewhat better than most of them. Betty Grable and Carole Landis play the parts of Texas carhops who inherit enough money to get them to Miami in search of a rich husband for Betty.

In Miami they meet Ameche and Cummings, and which girl gets which man is something for you to find out for yourself. The movie was filmed in technicolor which brings out all the beauty of the scenery (and Grable). Jack Haley ably fills the role of comedian.

The Lowdown:—Gentlemen prefer blondes—this picture has 'em. "FRISCO LIL," the Campus's other attraction, stars Irene Hervey in the role of a gambling young law student. Others in the cast are Kent Taylor, Minor Watson and Jerome Cowan.

Irene goes to work in a gambling joint to help her Dad out of a tough place. In doing so, she gains the ill-will of her boy-friends parents, a couple of reform organization leaders. By hook and by crook she manages to clear her father and get her man.

The Lowdown:—Nothing to write home about.

Campus
4-1181
Box Office Opens 1 P. M.
TODAY - TOMORROW - DOUBLE FEATURE
MOON OVER MIAMI
IN TECHNICOLOR!

with DON AMECHE BETTY GRABLE ROBERT CUMMINGS
1:18 - 4:12 - 7:06 - 10:00
"FRISCO LIL" with KENT TAYLOR IRENE HERVEY JEROME COWAN
2:49 - 5:43 - 8:37
Also Cartoon - Wabbit Twacks (All This and Rabbit Stew)

We Want Your Second Semester Engineering Books COLLEGE BOOK STORE Next to Waldrop's

MOVIE
Guion Hall
Tuesday and Wednesday 3:30 and 7 p. m.
Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in
"RIO RITA"
Cartoon News Comedy
COMING
Thursday and Friday
"Joe Smith, American"
with ROBERT YOUNG — MARSHA HUNT