

# The Battalion

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

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## The World Turns On

By DR. C. C. DOAK

**Relieving Chest Pressure**—Recently I have encouraged seemingly disgruntled students to "get it off their chests" by making a frank dispassionate statement of grievances. This has been done in the hope that either through this column or through official channels something could be done to help the situation. The first recognizable benefit was instantaneous. It came in the form of the relief experienced by the mere unburdening to a faculty member. Some cases were straightened out by mere discussion. Others led to truth-revealing investigations and, in some cases, to positive actions of one kind or another.

**Sample Grievances**—Some of the spontaneous experiences heard most often have been: "Why don't we have more opportunities to talk our problems over with members of the faculty?" "Why did the authorities mislead the public on the percentage of failures at last midterm?" "Why do we persistently have to be disturbed by rumors? Can't the authorities spike them by giving us proper sources of information?" For purposes of illustration these questions have been selected from a long list.

**Sample Answers and Suggested Solutions**—Solutions to the various problems that arise to vex us are as numerous and varied as are the vexed individuals. This fact is brought out very forcibly when Aggie problems are discussed in mixed groups. Nearly always there are violent reactions against any proposed solution. The cleavage may follow any line from one of personal preference to one based on class, field of specialization, or tradition.

**Sample One**—Until very recently there has been a very strong tradition against discussing student problems with faculty members. One of the most hopeful signs coming out of the war clouds now hanging over A. and M. is the eclipsing of this and other hurtful traditions.

**Suggestion**—Swat every harmful tradition. Ask that your leaders listen to your grievances and then let them help you to the best solution that can be jointly arrived at.

**Example Two**—Let us consider the matter of failures and the alleged attempt to cover up a bad record. I was shocked to hear several students state that they thought the record had been falsified. The difficulties disappeared when an investigation showed that a new and higher standard was used in making up the current deficiency list. Although by this standard the list was longer than heretofore, when reduced to comparable figures based upon the old standard, there was a marked improvement. Thus both our pride in our scholastic attainments and our confidence in the veracity of our leaders are restored when all the facts are known.

**Suggestion**—Lest we damage our school and embarrass ourselves, we should get all the facts before we start calling names.

**Example Three**—Language at best is a rather inadequate instrument for the transmission of thought, and stories unavoidably undergo changes in the telling; therefore rumors are universal. The degree of damage that they do, however, depends upon the number and the credulity of persons involved. It would be nothing short of miraculous if, under the stress of war, 5000 immature individuals could be housed in dormitories away from the steady influences of home and with all the intimacies of a house party without their giving birth to at least 500 rumors per hour.

**Suggestion**—Information should be given out through set channels as fast as it becomes official. Information not released officially should be discounted, but the matter of stopping rumors before they get started, as suggested by some students, is an impossibility. The best thing for all of us except the habitual rumor monger is to keep so busy with our routine affairs that rumors come and go without even so much as reaching our ears.

The Aggies have long been noted for their spirit and good sportsmanship. These are the main things that make this school the best there is. The question is, "Is the demonstration the Aggies put on Saturday at Kadet Kapers an example of Aggie Spirit and Sportsmanship?" There has never been such an exhibition of poor manners and bad taste in all the years of Aggie conduct and Sportsmanship. A group of excellent performers were kind enough to appear before us; and a few students at A.&M., they can't be called Aggies, whooped and yelled to such an extent that these guests couldn't be heard. This does not apply to Aggies in general but to that small number of boys that haven't the manners of a jack-ass.

It is a wonder that Richard Jenkins can persuade anybody to appear before the Aggies. If the Aggie spirit and the Aggie environment makes a bunch of men be disrespectful to people who are trying to please them, then something should be done.

This exhibition was one of the rare occasions when all true Aggies should be ashamed of some of their fellow Aggies.

If necessary, a Senior should be put in each row to see that those boys who have no manners; suddenly acquire them when good manners are in order.

- W. P. Kincy, '44
- J. W. Reagan, '44
- B. M. Woofler, '44
- M. E. Bolton, '44
- E. T. Rogers, '43
- S. W. Dedman, '44
- B. T. Flowers, '43
- A. T. Tyler, '44
- G. T. Ramsey, '44
- H. T. Haile, '44

## PRIVATE BUCK .. By Clyde Lewis



"I trained her to scream at me all the time. That way, it's more homelike around here!"

## BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

By John Holman

## Town Hall . . .

### Answers . . .

. . . to the riddles that appeared in this column about 10 days ago have been pouring into the Batt office—all of them correct. . . E. J. Pickens offers this one: If an airplane flies from A to B in only ninety minutes, flies from B to C in ninety minutes, then with a zero wind in all directions, and using the same throttle-speed, why did it take 1 hour and thirty minutes to fly from C back to A?

### Irvin Thompson . . .

. . . class of '40, writes from Sioux Falls, S. D., enclosing a clipping from the Sioux City Journal containing an article about the Aggie football team. It said in part ". . . they call Texas A. & M. old man river. In three bowls the last three years, victorious in 29 out of their last 32 games, Southwest conference champions two out of the last three years, co-champion the other year, and the best bet for 1942—she just keeps rollin' along." Thompson also says that when he tells the boys he's from A. & M., he gets a lot of extra respect, especially from the boys from Brooklyn, N. Y., who too-well remember the licking we gave NYU.

### Engaged . . .

. . . to be married is ex-head yell leader Buster Keaton, now a first louie, to Miss Florence Torehand of Temple. Hooked last Sat. night were Goode Weir, Infantry band, and Guy Johnson, Field Artillery band.

### Mr. Penny . . .

. . . reports that twelve outfits entered the Singaroo. The winners will sing on Kadet Kapers (incidentally the last of the season) come Saturday night. Eliminations will be held Thursday and Friday night. Outfits who want to sing in the contest but what have not of ficially entered will be allowed to sing if they want to. Notify the Student Activities office or Mr. Penny at the Intramural office.

### Flunkers . . .

. . . slaughtering English courses shouldn't feel so bad about. Eugene O'Neill, world famous playwright, flunked English when he was in Princeton.

. . . features for the fall season are splattered all over today's front page. Alec Templeton is not only an outstanding pianist and composer but a blind one at that. He's been sightless since childhood. . . the two swing bands listed will be selected from the best bands playing for the organization balls. . . Houston Symphony Orchestra plays its fourth straight season here this year.

### Orchestras . . .

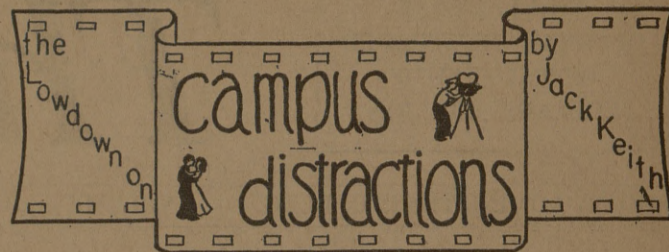
. . . are still the problem on the dancing front. The Composite and Engineer's Regiments haven't started in yet because their balls are quite a few days off, but the Coast and Infantry are really up to their ears in fight. The Coast has a chance at Don Bestor, Anson Weeks, and possibly Boyd Raeburn. Raeburn's outfit is the one that came down as an unknown for the Composite's 1941 hop, and proved so popular that he played four weeks here last year, two of them on consecutive week-ends. He's asking a little too much this year. . . while Infantry committeemen are sweating Claude Thornhill, Al Donahue, and Tommy Reynolds. Reynolds is a name-band up in Yankee-land but has yet to prove himself to Texas hep-cats. Thornhill features weird arrangements by Thornhill and Donahue, currently at Hotel Peabody in Memphis, is strictly a first-class swing band. His favorite haunt is the Rain-bow Room of Rockefeller Center, N. Y. Both Thornhill and Donahue are in the far distant haze though as far as the Infantry is concerned.

Silverfish or moths can be controlled by dusting derris powder where they are feeding.

### WHAT'S SHOWING

At The Campus  
Tuesday, Wednesday — "Confessions of Boston Blackie" with Chester Morris and Harriet Hilliard. Also "The Stork Pays Off", with Victor Jory and Rochelle Hudson.

At Guion Hall  
Tuesday, Wednesday — "Ship Ahoy", starring Red Skelton and Eleanor Powell.



A master of the dance, of comedy, and music—each is included in the cast of "SHIP AHOY", currently featured at Guion Hall. Eleanor Powell taps out a nimble S.O.S. that enables government agents to step in and nab a gang of foreign spies and in doing so she taps out a message to the audience that proves to them that she is the screen's greatest female dancer.

Red "I dood it" Skelton is the laugh-producer in the show. In spite of a part which is not conducive to smooth portrayal, Red manages to bring life and comedy into the picture. To aid with the comedy motif of the movie, Bert Lahr plays the part of Red's stogee and Virginia O'Brien is cast in the part of Bert's girl friend. She's the artist of dead pan expression and unique voice delivery.

Now, add in Tommy Dorsey, his band and some specialty numbers and you have a show worth seeing. Dorsey plays at least two original tunes; and his Negro dancers with their round-hat-and-no-expression routine are whizzes.

The story of "Ship Ahoy" is built around a spy ring that has stolen a secret magnetic mine and is attempting to get it out of America. They hide the mine in the dressing room of Eleanor Powell, dancer on her way to Puerto Rico with Tommy Dorsey and his band. Red Skelton stumbles on to the plot from then on its everybody's show.

The Lowdown: downright funny bone-ish. "CONFESSIONS OF BOSTON BLACKIE" sounds like melodrama-mystery, but the movie is rarely serious. George E. Stone, Joan Woodbury and Lloyd Corrigan are on hand to provoke laughter in a story of a murder and a disappearing body.

Cast in the principal parts are Chester Morris and Harriet Hilliard. It seems that Morris is blamed by the police for a murder which he didn't commit. The only way he can prove his innocence is to get the corpse and procure the bullet and prove he didn't fire it. By hook and by crook, the body is hidden in a hollow statue. Climax takes place among the boxes and barrels of an underground warehouse.

The Lowdown: —Boston Blackie "sings", but not for his supper.

Pure comedy with Victor Jory, Rochelle Hudson and Maxie Rosenbloom can be seen in "THE STORK PAYS OFF", second feature at the Campus today and tomorrow. It's the story of Victor Jory, a former beer king, and his lieutenants, "Far-to-be-the-Ground," "Photofinish" and "Brains."

They get mixed up in a nursery which they thought was a night spot. Complications develop when a gangster "laundry" tries to muscle in. Further trouble comes from political sources. For this class of picture the script is clever and inventive.

The Lowdown: —from beer king to diaper king in one lesson.

## Warm Soda Water Is "Test-Hopped"

In the opinion of at least one group of Air Force mechanics, a man doesn't need a pair of silver wings to be a "test pilot." They contend that all he must have is a sporting instinct and a strong distaste for warm soda pop.

Occasionally the cold drink machine in Hangar "U" goes on the blink and the bottles come out warm instead of otherwise. The first man to get a warm bottle is honor-bound to prepare immediately a bulletin of the following sort, sign it and post it conspicuously on the machine:

"Test-hopped at such-and-such o'clock. Drinks warm. Wait one hour before second test."

Noting the warning, thirsty mechanics save their nickles until the next "test" is due. Of course, the "test pilot" is a veritable martyr, but the mechanics declare they give him his due share of glory.

A female housefly can become a great-grandmother in 60 days.

## Campus

4-1181  
Box Office Opens at 1:00 P. M.

TODAY-TOMORROW  
DOUBLE FEATURE

**Confessions of BOSTON BLACKIE**  
with CHESTER MORRIS and HARRIET HILLIARD  
A Columbia Picture

1:00 - 3:28 - 5:56 - 8:24  
10:52

**THE STORK PAYS OFF**  
with "Slapsie" Maxie ROSENBLUM  
A Columbia Picture

2:05 - 4:33 - 7:01 - 9:29  
Also Merry-Melody --- Cartoon

**MOVIE**  
**Guion Hall**  
Tuesday and Wednesday  
3:00 — 7:00

Eleanor Powell  
Red Skelton  
Tommy Dorsey  
in  
**"SHIP AHOY"**  
Thursday and Friday  
Dix — Morrison — Foster  
in  
**"THE ROUND - UP"**

## What Type Are You?

If you were laying out in a field hospital, a gaping wound in your still-conscious body, and the doctor asked you what type your blood was, that you must have a transfusion—what would you tell him?

The College Hospital, in cooperation with the local Blood Service Committee, is typing blood at no charge to you. The test is absolutely painless, and requires but a few minutes of your time.

Primarily to make available a list of blood types for College Station, EVERY AGGIE ON THIS CAMPUS SHOULD KNOW HIS BLOOD TYPE.

Drop around to the hospital, fellows. Have your blood typed. Who knows, yours may be one of the rare types so important to war hospitalization.

## Open Forum

Just about all of us have wondered at some time since the war program went into effect what arrangement can be made with regard to the status of the different groups of freshmen, entering in June, September, and February. Of course final action on the matter lies in the hand of the authorities, but surely the most satisfactory solution to the problem would be one arising originally from the student body. There are several tentative plans circulating the campus at present, but all seem to involve difficulties that would prevent their operating to the satisfaction of the corps and authorities.

If the fish now in school and those to enter in September all become campus sophomores after Christmas, there will be practically no freshman class from February until June. Some outfits will have no freshmen at all during this period, while others will have but one, two, or three. The most obvious alternative, leaving the status of all boys who enter after the past May as freshmen until next June is even more unsatisfactory. Under such a setup as this, a great many would have to remain freshmen through half their sophomore year, which is obviously unfair.

If we do not want to use either of these plans, we are confronted with the problem of splitting the freshman class in February. Every Aggie knows that it would never do to have our present fish and those to enter in September on an equal basis until February and then make sophomores of only half of them. Then there is the possibility of forming a new class of each group entering, but this idea would lead to disunity throughout, as eventually there would be eight different classes on the campus. Since any Aggie's very close friends are members of his own class, this plan would cut down on the number of such friendships very noticeably.

Suppose that the boys coming in in September enter as frogs. Then in February there will be a complete turnover. The present fish will become sophomores, the September frogs will turn to fish and the new group entering will start as frogs, to become fish in June. Under this proposed system there would not be class distinction between frogs and fish, or between fish and sophomores (after February), but it would exist between sophomores and frogs. A new junior and senior class would be formed in February and next September. With such a scheme as this in effect, every student entering will be required to remain a "first year cadet" for two semesters, regardless of when he enters—yet there will never be a sharp line of distinction between him and the group one term ahead of or behind him (the boys with whom he has been most closely associated.)

We must have definite action on this problem before next semester begins, or we will find ourselves with a bunch of new students on our hands, who do not even know what class they belong in. The plan offered has rough spots in it, but it seems to have more possibilities than the others. Think the whole thing over and talk it up, because if we are to have a system that will suit us, we will have to submit a plan to the powers that be before very long.

Louis Horner, '44