

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Texas A. & M. COLLEGE The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station...

1941 Member 1942 Associated Collegiate Press Brooks Cofer... Editor-in-Chief Ken Breen... Associate Editor Phil Brown... Staff Photographer

Open Forum

(The following letter was received at the Battalion office from an ex who is in the service at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He withheld his name, but the editors think that it warrants publication.)

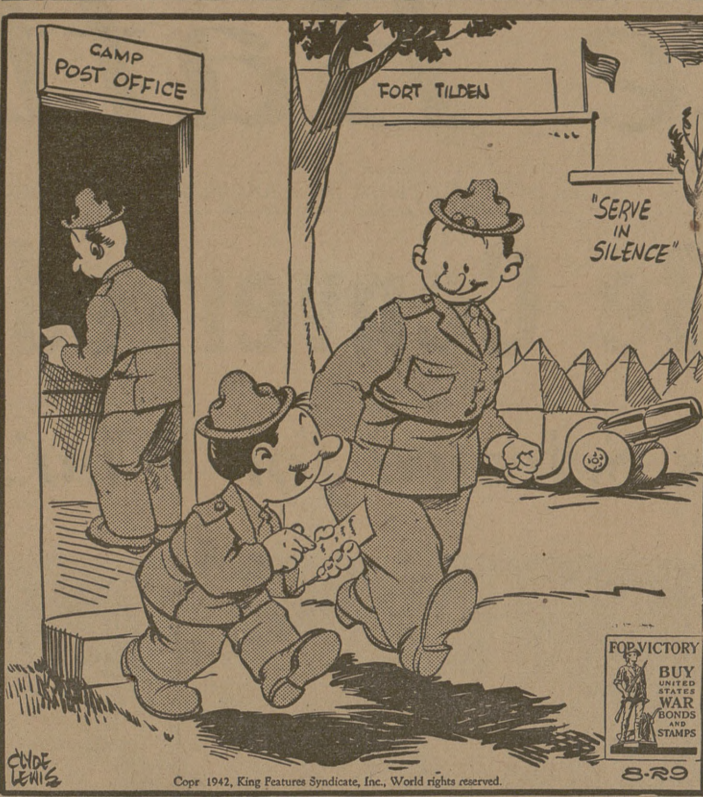
At the present time, exes are serving all over the world—I've met them all over the States and have no doubts that I'll meet many more when I get across. In their quieter moments, these men think often of the Aggies coming behind them—what they're doing, what they're thinking, and how the school is being handled.

I once heard a captain, after meeting the tenth Aggie officer in the same battalion, mutter to himself, "Texas Aggies, the founders of the earth." That is exactly why I'm writing this letter. We have a reputation, founded by the men who came before us, to live up to. It must be met and at least equalled for if not—what will Aggieland mean to what it has meant and now means?

The days of "air-outs," "bleed meetings," and the like are probably gone by now; but, even so, don't let the school become a place where "panty-waists" go in order to dodge the draft. The stars on the flag in the rotunda of the Academic Building symbolize only one type of person—MEN. Let's make sure that the stars on the flags to be hung beside it in the future mean the same thing. You're going to the best school on the face of the earth—keep on turning out men who are as good.

I'm not signing this letter because I sincerely believe that all exes feel alike. Good luck—we'll be looking for you when you finish that last "final review" and go to work on the same job with thousands of Aggies everywhere.

PRIVATE BUCK .. By Clyde Lewis



"Swanky outfit, this 147th. Here's an embossed invite to a crap game!"

BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

Exchange . . .

... from the Daily Texan: James Mims, art editor of the Batt mag, made the front page of the Daily Texan in his cartoon, printed in the last Batt, depicting a typical Texas zoot-suiter who looks somewhat shocked at seeing a colored gent dressed in a zoot suit exactly like his . . . or maybe it's the Negro that's shocked.

You Culprits . . .

Bulletin from Austin Sabotage struck the Forty Acres at 11:30 o'clock last (Tuesday) night as two Aggies set fire to the huge pile of materials behind the men's dormitories. Both culprits escaped in a 1937 Plymouth waiting on Nineteenth street.

Hundreds of enraged University students rushed to see the bonfire, which was planned for tonight, burn prematurely. Five students chased two uniformed cadets across the intramural field to no avail.

The Aggies destroyed part of the wire fence which surrounded the pile of rubbish, added kerosene, and fled. The Austin fire department arrived too late to save the pile from destruction. P. S.—We hear they threw in Granny's to make it a good blaze.

He Must Be . . .

Headed "Desperate Aggie Seeks Cute Co-Ed for Date to Game," this also is from the DT:

Desperate damsels, attention! One also desperate Aggie wants a date for the football game and demanded the following in a letter to the Texan: Must be under 5 feet 5 inches and have cute figure. Prefer brunettes with dark eyes. Must have car, preferably convertible, of course.

Interested interesting females are asked to contact A Texas Aggie, 304 South Washington, Bryan, Texas.

Sweepings . . .

Found Dept.: Jack Waters, Mead's Bakery, Abilene, Texas, has a 1941 class ring—Klondike High—that an Aggie lost in a Mead's Bakery truck . . . Kate Parker, Registrar's Office, found a book of band music (No. 66) . . . Also Found: John Longley has found a

Wintertime Brings Increase of Fire Hazards, Warning to Texas Citizens

Marvin Hall, state fire insurance commissioner, says wintertime brings a seasonal increase in fire hazards. The added dangers of destructive fire creates a need for closer inspections at home.

"A substantial percentage of our fires at home during cold weather," he explained, "result from a few common causes. The most of these we could prevent by being more careful. Our neglect in taking precautions during winter has caused unnecessary fire losses."

Commissioner Hall listed the following as several of the common causes of fire at this season of the year:

1. A danger spot is often found in a chimney at the point where it passes through a roof. The construction of a chimney is important.

girl who has promised to become Mrs. L. on December 18 at Giddings, Texas . . .

Now Them Flix . . .

The following was written by Tom Journey who's working with the sound crew:

Bernard Brown, sound director for "them movie people," reports to us on location that he has received numerous telegrams from the "Big Shots" back on the West Coast. The occasion for the 'grams is the receipt of the daily sound tracks Brown and the sound crew have made of the band, Singing Cadets, yells, and general "Aggie-fusion" that are sent to the coast daily for printing and approval.

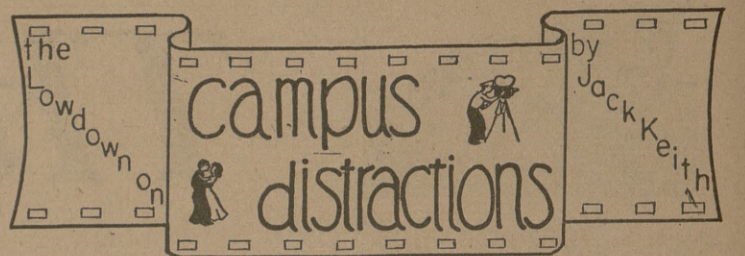
Brown tells us that the officials out there are already head over heels in love with the Aggieland film and are shouting for more.

He Dood It . . .

By the way, we believe that credit should go where credit is due. The recordings made of the full concert band were some of the very best that Hollywood has heard to date according to some pretty reliable sources. All the credit for the swell quality on those recordings rightfully belongs to Brown, who personally handled the "mixer" on all the musical scoring that has been done here on location. You know, sound directors usually don't have time to stick around and personally take a hand in all the musical work on pictures, but—well, this picture is an exception—for two reasons. One, Universal heads have told Brown to stay here and finish the recordings personally, and two, Brown hates to leave the joint on de Brazos so bad, that this is a swell excuse to stay here longer.

How They Work . . .

We were strongly impressed by the ease with which every member of the various departments operate, perfectly "sunked" (movie language meaning synchronized) with everyone else. The sound crew have a real problem on their hands, how to get the mike in close enough to pick up all the things the cast is saying clearly, and still not cast a shadow or get in the camera's way. We'll tell you more about how they do it at a later date.



Everybody sings, dances and makes merry in "PRIORITIES ON PARADE," scheduled to show at the Campus today and tomorrow. The plot, what little there is of it, involves a group of defense plant workers and a band leader who is trying to get a job playing for them.

Johnnie Johnston, Ann Miller, Jerry Colonna and Betty Rhodes are the chief starlets who make this picture a success. Johnnie is cast as the band leader whose whole band takes jobs at the defense plant in order to furnish music for the workers. Johnnie works under Miss Rhodes and has to be taken down a few notches by her before he can get accustomed to working under a female boss.

Jerry Colonna and Vera Vague furnish the funny spots for the show while Ann Miller displays her beautiful legs in several good dance scenes. Culmination of events comes

when the whole gang is offered contracts to go on entertaining PARADE, but they decide to keep on making planes for Uncle Sam.

The Lowdown—swing music on the swing shift.

Guion Hall offers a musical comedy also, in "PANAMA HATTIE," with Ann Sothern, Red Skelton and Ben Blue sharing the billing honors. Ann is cast as "Hattie"—a role similar to her "Maiseie" roles. She is an entertainer in a Panama honkytonk, engaged to a soldier from a blue blood family.

Her best pals—Red, Rags and Blue—are three screwy sailors. When her romance seems headed for the rocks, they step in and save it. Others in the cast are Jackie Horner, Dan Diley, Jr., Marsha Hunt and Virginia O'Brien of the dead-pan O'Brien clan.

The Lowdown—just another musical—nothing special.

Heart Pumps 50 Gallons of Blood With No Vacations

The human heart pumps approximately 50 gallons of blood every hour with no vacations, no days off, no sleep, and no rest except between beats, according to Dr. Geo. W. Cox, State Health Officer, who says that since the heart has such a tremendous task to perform, it deserves your whole-heart-

ed cooperation.

In order to give your heart every possible assistance in the performance of this amazing task, Dr. Cox suggests the following rules for keeping the heart healthy:

Go to your doctor at least once a year for examination and then follow his advice.

After a serious illness have your doctor give your heart a thorough examination and then return to active life as carefully and slow as possible. This will give your heart sufficient time to rest and recuperate from the unusual strain of a severe illness.

Go to your dentist regularly and do not neglect infected teeth or tonsils.

Keep your weight near the average for a person of your age, sex, and height.

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WHAT'S SHOWING At Guion Hall Tuesday and Wednesday—"Panama Hattie," starring Ann Sothern and Red Skelton. At the Campus Tuesday and Wednesday—"Priorities on Parade," with Johnnie Johnston and Ann Miller.

Guion Hall New Week-Day Schedule Box Office Opens 2 p.m. Closes 10 p.m. TODAY AND WEDNESDAY BEYOND COMPARE!

CAGNEY CAPTAINS OF THE CLOUDS IN TECHNICOLOR A NEW WARNER BROS. HIT with Dennis Morgan - Brenda Marshall Directed by MICHAEL CURTIZ Feature at: 2:45 - 5:12 - 8:02 - 10:12 Plus Color Cartoon, "Fox and Grapes" Community Singing Football Thrills of '41 THURS. - FRI. "Panama Hattie"

Campus Telephone 4-1181 TODAY AND TOMORROW Feature No. 2 "WORLD AT WAR" Feature length news reel account of a world at war—including film confiscated from enemy newsreels. Also "MERRIE MELODY and JAMES STEWART in "WINNING YOUR WINGS" THURS. - FRI. - SAT. "WAKE ISLAND"

HASWELL'S Bryan VICTOR AND COLUMBIA THIS IS THE ARMY—Hoace Heidt WHOSE HEART ARE YOU BREAKING NOW—Bob Wills MANHATTAN SERENADE—Dinah Shore CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS MOOD—Freddie Martin

Colleges and Class Privilege

American colleges and universities, secure in their traditions of academic freedom and intellectual and ideological leadership, have always been looked upon as a vital part of the democratic heritage. Yet today, for the first time, they are being compelled to face openly the one issue they have avoided, but which directly challenges their right even to consider themselves a part of the democratic way of life.

For the blunt fact is that the whole system of higher education in this country is built upon the basis of class privilege—for the colleges now, as in the past, continue to draw their students primarily from those financially able to afford an education. As a people, we have seldom questioned this condition. We have built up legends about students who "work their way through college" till we have almost convinced ourselves that the opportunity for higher education is open equally to all elements in the population. Yet we have failed to realize that, not only are colleges to a large extent reserved for those who can afford it, but even those who either partially or wholly "work their way" are able to do so simply because their families do not require their earnings for subsistence.

On the graduate school level—medicine, law, engineering, etc.—the lines of privilege are even more sharply drawn. Since work in these advanced fields requires considerable more attention than college studies, graduate students as a rule find it difficult to hold jobs at the same time, and consequently greater emphasis is placed on the state of family finances.

In times of peace, a system of college and graduate education based on privilege hardly jibes with the sacred American principles of "equal opportunity for all." In wartime, its undemocratic character is accentuated both because it leads to serious waste of effective manpower and because it inevitably hardens the class distinction in the armed forces.

That the American people are now paying through the nose as a result of their delusions about higher education is seen in recent reports of the national resources planning board and the Carnegie endowment. Three out of every four high school students who graduate in the top ten per cent scholastically never get to college, mainly because of financial reasons. In other words, the country annually is losing a substantial part of its best "brainpower" because the financial means for providing the proper training for that brainpower are unavailable.

By now, most of the colleges have forgotten that the original Selective Service law, which only permitted temporary deferment for students, was specifically designed to prevent the rise of a privileged group exempt from service. The various reserve plans however, by drawing officer material from students after they had been admitted to college, became a convenient means for circumventing the clear intention of the war. No one will deny that deferment is necessary to enable a student to receive adequate training; but deferment and eventual commissions belong to those who deserve them on the basis of ability, not to those who were able to pay for the opportunity to receive them.

Since the army and navy depend on the colleges for most of their officer material, the effect of perpetuating the traditional basis for admission can only be to strengthen the degree of privilege which pervades the armed forces. A democratic army is one whose officers are drawn from all elements in the population and not limited to the sons of the comparatively well-to-do.

The changes which must be made are simple, yet clearly revolutionary in nature. In principle, they are contained in the plans now being evolved in Washington. Whatever the form of financial aid adopted, it must be made clear that there can be no compromise with the basic principle that higher education is not the possession of a particular class, but the right of all the people, with the government assuring the realization of that right when necessary.

It is common knowledge in educational circles that government officials had originally intended to put the new plan into effect during the past summer. However, fear over the political implications of the revolu-

This Collegiate World

ASSOCIATED COLLEGE PRESS

Training for commissions in the quarter-master corps of the army is being offered undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Michigan.

A quartermaster unit of the reserve officer's training corps has been established under Lt. Ross B. Zartman, the sixth branch of the ROTC to be made part of the university's department of military science and tactics. The other units are: infantry, corps of engineers, signal corps, ordinance department and medical corps.

Elderly people assured of support through social security should perform useful services to the community and be the peace-time equivalent of "dollar-a-year" volunteers, it is suggested by Dr. George Lawton of Columbia university.

"All men and women over 65 years old should be assured of the thrill of personal accomplishment and a sense of social usefulness," Dr. Lawton declares.

Present civilian defense organizations with their voluntary workers giving their services for the nation may possibly after the war provide the machinery by which older men and women with pensions or other means may contribute their services to the community, Dr. Lawton believes. This or some other method must be devised for avoiding the present feeling of competition between the old and the young workers when wages are at stake, he says.

The aeronautical engineering laboratory of Texas A.&M. College is possessor of the only Diesel airplane engine ever allowed to be used for classroom study, according to Dr. Howard Barlow, head of the department.

All other products of the Guiberson Diesel factor have been turned over to the government in the wartime program, but Allen W. Guiberson, vice-president of the company, got special release on the engine presented to the college, and future aeronautical engineers turned out by Texas A.&M. will be familiar with the workings of this new type power plant for airplanes.

A committee of selected aeronautical students spent several days in the Guiberson plant in Dallas recently and studied the new engine. As soon as official approval was received the engine was sent to the college so others enrolled in the department might study it.

Digging casually at a weathered bone jutting from a rock formation, University of Wyoming co-eds of the geology class discovered it was no ordinary soupbone. The thing extended deep into the earth. Calling Dr. S. S. Knight, director of the geology camp, they found it was a part of a dinosaur's skeleton that measured between 40 and 50 feet in length. Dr. Knight hopes to unearth the complete skeleton.

Eighty-seven per cent of co-eds in a recent survey replied that sweaters and skirts are the backbone of college wardrobes.

A survey indicates that 66 per cent of co-eds wear anklets.

tionary proposal, not to mention the threatened opposition of religious groups and old-line educators whose belief in democracy is limited to pretty speeches, is said to have stalled public announcement.

For this reason, it is now up to the colleges, their faculties and their students—those most affected by the new proposals—to rally behind leaders like President Conant of Harvard and show the world that they understand that democracy tolerates no privilege. Should they fail to renounce the present basis for higher education in the United States they shall in effect have given the lie to all their sacred traditions and all their wee words about freedom and equality.—The Columbia Daily Spectator.