

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
Texas A. & M. COLLEGE
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Open Forum

THANKS A MILLION—AND ADIOS!
When I said, "Cut, print it," on the last scene Sunday afternoon in front of the Aggeland Inn, I wanted to take the microphone from Freddy Frank and make the only speech of my life; but I was afraid my intense gratitude to everybody at Texas A.&M. College from the Board of Directors and the President, down to the newest Frog on the campus would cause me to bungle, so I take this method of telling you all, through the Battalion, how deeply grateful I am for the cooperation and patience and the splendid acting of all you Aggies did for "We've Never Been Licked."

I am writing this while awaiting the plane which will take me back to Hollywood. The month I spent on the campus is fresh in my memory. I recall how I felt when Walter Wanger assigned me to direct the picture. He told me about the wonderful spirit at Aggeland. Norman Reilly Raine told me about it. I was told to go to College Station and see for myself.

Freddy Frank, Milt Krasner, Alex Golitzen and myself came down. We stayed nearly two weeks. About the fourth day on the campus I knew what Wanger and Raine meant when they said "the Aggies have the finest spirit in the world." We returned to California and prepared to shoot the picture.

We arrived back at Texas A.&M. on November 14 and began work. We now have finished our work and all that remains is to take what we did at A.&M. back to Hollywood and fill in the dialogue.

Throughout the entire period not one request was made that wasn't fulfilled better than we expected, and the response was immediate.

No individual or group was requested to do anything that wasn't performed with a willingness to cooperate that we do not even get in Hollywood where we are accustomed to pay for everything we do.

There was work in hot sunlight, on cold nights, long hours of standing patiently, numerous retakes, unexplainable delays—all without protest, with a fine spirit of cooperation.

I want to use this means of expressing my deepest appreciation to every person on the campus and the fine Bryan folks who helped us.

Nowhere but in the great institution of Texas A.&M. College could we have accomplished what we did. Finer people do not live anywhere than those at Texas A.&M. College.

My two sons are going to be enrolled at Texas A.&M. College.

Sincerely and gratefully,
(signed) Jack Rawlins
Director, Universal Pictures.

Something to Read

By DR. T. F. MAYO

Their Way and Our Way
If you like dramatic contrasts and if, at the same time, you would like to set over against one another, in bold relief, two ways of looking at life, I recommend Clarence Darrow: For the Defense, by Irving Stone and Education for Death: The Making of the Nazi, by Gregor Ziemer. I cannot claim that Clarence Darrow is a typical American, and I refuse to believe that Adolph Hitler is a typical German. But it is true, I think, that only the U.S.A. could have produced Darrow and equally true, I believe, that Hitler could have evolved into what he is only in Germany—and only, moreover, in such a tortured and twisted and sick Germany as has existed since 1918.

These two books, therefore, offer a sensational contrast between two attitudes, each of which embodies a powerful part of the national ideal of a great people. The following passages speak for themselves:

From Education for Death (p. 114, ff):
(Experts from "Hail to Our Fuehrer," a highly recommended and popular book for German boys): "Thanks to those hard days in Vienna, while our Fuehrer had to battle Jews and corrupted statesmen, our Hitler himself became hard; it is thanks to those hard days that he has acquired unusual strength of character. This hardness often stands him in good stead now."

Man, Your Manners

By I. SHERWOOD

Choosing a gift for your girl should give you pleasure as well as her—if you give the matter thought. As a rule, men wait until the last minute, then rush into a store, and take the advice of a tired disinterested clerk on what to buy, and as a result they buy something they are not sure of or happy about. A gift should be a particular thing, therefore, it is difficult to give general suggestions on what to buy.

Etiquette books caution young men to use discretion in their purchases; if you are engaged you may, with propriety, give her personal and expensive gifts, otherwise bestow, lingerie and jewelry sparingly, and money never.

The standard list of gifts may sound old-fashioned but if you stick to it you will be perfectly proper; it includes books, flowers, stationery, perfume, handkerchiefs, and costume jewelry. If a man knows a girl's interests, he shouldn't have any trouble making a choice, for instance, if she is athletic and loves tennis or golf, give her the implements to play the game; if you want her to write often, give her a desk set or a desk pen or if she is a girl that is careful about her looks, give her a vanity; one of the lovely plastic toilet sets would make most any woman happy (I hope Santa Claus sees this.)

Exchanging photographs with a girl you are not engaged to may give you some concern as well as embarrassment when you try to get it back at a later date, especially, if you have inscribed it with your undying devotion.

Penny's Serenade

By W. L. PENBERTHY

For about the past month the normal life of the student body has been somewhat disrupted because of the filming of "We've Never Been Licked," but I am sure we all learned some things by being in the picture or by observing the shooting of the various scenes. I am also sure that the personnel of the Universal Company made a very favorable impression on our students and campus people in general. From my observation I feel that they contributed to our education in two ways. First, I feel that most of us found out there were some ways of spending time that were more painful than attending or teaching class and secondly we learned that everything connected with movie making was not rosy for I heard many make the remark that, on the basis of what they had seen in the filming of this picture, the Movie Industry was one industry with which they would not care to be connected.

Personally, I was much impressed with the patience shown on the part of the directors in the handling of the actors and actresses and the meticulous attention that was paid to the minutest detail in the filming of shots. In this respect they reminded me of the coach of a squad drilling his team on a complicated play because every little detail had to be just right and the play had to be rehearsed until everything went off letter perfect. They were not content with having a scene be pretty good—it had to be just right and they stayed with the job until they got it that way. This is surely a fine lesson we should have learned from one of the biggest industries in the world.

One of the best wise cracks I heard was made by Richard Quine while the scenes were being taken at Kyle Field. The entire football squad was acting as background and was going through practice routines while the scenes were being shot. Dick was having a little trouble with his lines and of course the scene had to be retaken each time something didn't click. After the second time it had to be retaken Weldon Maples hollered over and said, "Dick, the next time you mess that scene up, we are coming after you."

"Oh yeah," replied Dick, "I'll take you guys on one at a time—at Ping Pong."
May you have a fine Holiday Season.

Aggie Cryptogram

(The following cryptogram was enciphered by taking a plain-text quotation dealing with Aggeland and dividing it into groups of five letters, then arranging each of these groups alphabetically.)

Today's Aggie Cryptogram:
EFFIT EFNOR CHKU ADINW ADEFN
AHPY ADILN GNS. —B. H. Luther
Tuesday's Solution:
AGGIES LETS HAVE A WHITE CHRISTMAS WITH MOM POP AND HER.

"Our Fuehrer could not even see mice go hungry. Even dumb animals can touch his heart with pity. But with his enemies—that is a different story. With them he can be hard."

From the introduction to "We Maidens Sing," a popular songbook for girls:
"Holy is our food, and the ground where it grows. The ground where now we stand has drunk German blood in streams."

... Oh, Bloody Acre, thou that dost nourish us,
Bloody Acre dedicated to Death,
Make us worthy of Power."
From Clarence Darrow: For the Defense (p. 513):
"The lords of creation think that the Almighty meant that they should be rich and the great mass of people poor. Men have got to do these things themselves, but men are awfully hardhearted. Kindness comes

(See SOMETHING TO READ, Page 4)

PRIVATE BUCK . . . By Clyde Lewis



"Buck is always arguing. Last night it was with the Sergeant about dim-out regulations!"

BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

Nip & Tuck . . .

You've heard (undoubtedly) of a rumor mill going full blast somewhere. The way the papers and radio have been bouncing the news around the last few days, it's no wonder . . . but that doesn't mean they're at fault. However it seems the big boys are on the verge of making some sort of definite statement.

Tuesday night the radio made the ERC boys sit up by announcing the ERC will be called into active duty in a few weeks. Wednesday morning a paragraph on the front page of a metro paper stated that the ERC will be called in a few weeks and that basic ROTC students are subject to induction.

But on an inside page was a story advising collegians to "sit tight" while some sort of committee meets to decide what to do with them. (Probably the committee for holding collegians in suspense). Paul McNutt has taken a load off the minds of the nation's educators by announcing intentions to continue liberal arts education in colleges . . . which boosts Aggeland's "business as usual" chances.

What's New . . .

. . . in the way of songs is discussed by Sister Mary Brown of the TSCW Lass-O:

Girls who witnessed and participated in the filming of the dance scene in WNBL predict more and better parts for singer David Street and popularity for the song he plugs, "Me For You Forever." David is making his first picture, although he appeared with Bob Crosby on the Kraft Music Hall, with "Six Hits and a Miss" on the Burns and Allen show, and with Freddie Slack and Orchestra.

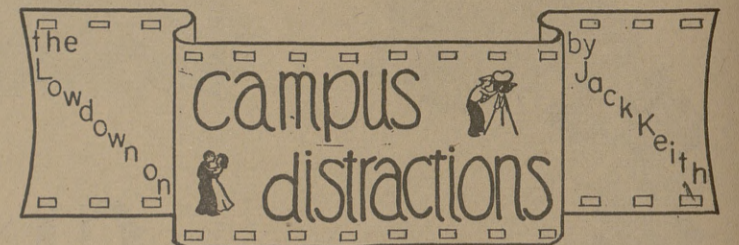
Dim Out Light Developed by G E

A new control switch developed by the General Electric Lighting Division permits satisfactory "dim-out" operation of traffic signals during a blackout. It allows illumination of the entire lens instead of a reduced area, making for greater traffic safety, but the light is not discernible from the air.

The device can be mounted in the base of the controller cabinet without drilling extra holes in the controller panel or making any wiring changes. It consists of a transformer and a single-pole switch with two positions. With the switch at the "normal" position the signal lamp burns at full brilliancy; at the "blackout" position, voltage is reduced and the lamp filament just glows. A visor must be provided for each signal lens to screen the upward light and decrease the range of the signal beam.

Dr. Martha Steffy Browne is believed to be the first woman to hold the title of economics instructor in University of Cincinnati history.

At least 39 colleges and professional schools have closed their doors or merged with other institutions since spring.



"THE FLEET'S IN," showing at Guion Hall today is a funfest filled with enough humor, dancing and singing to suit any and everybody. Among those appearing in the show are Dorothy Lamour, William Holden, Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton and Jimmy Dorsey and his band.

Most of the film has the navy in the background, as the name indicates. The plot all centers around a scheme on the part of Holden's pals to get him to woo and kiss publicly a luscious femme known as "The Duchess" (Miss Lamour). Bets are laid on all sides because Holden is a girl-shy guy and apparently has never kissed a girl in his life.

As it turns out, he falls in love with the Duchess and she begins to feel the same way for him. But about this time, she finds out about the bets being laid on his kissing her and calls the whole thing off. Naturally, he has to prove to her that he was really serious and was making love to her regardless of the bet.

"The Fleet's In" is a good all-around show for light entertainment. Betty Hutton is especially

Russian Relief Needs Excess Seed Of American Farms

American seedsmen should not only give their full cooperation to the seed campaign of Russian War Relief, Inc., but should assist in directing the efforts of the campaign so that the greatest possible benefit will result, according to a statement made to the whole seed trade industry by A. J. Biggio, president of the American Seed Trade Association.

Biggio assured seedsmen that their contributions would not endanger our domestic seed needs or disturb the Lend Lease seed program. He reported that all relief agencies soliciting American seedsmen for seed contributions were obliged to keep Lend Lease seed authorities and the President's War formed of their collections and purchases in seeds. Thus, Biggio's statement pointed out, the seed collections made by Russian War Relief, Inc., will be charged against Russia's seed allocation.

In view of this clarification, Biggio's statement declared: "Now we can give our wholehearted support to these fine endeavors (the seed campaign) with the full knowledge that they are of real patriotic significance and are under proper governmental surveillance."

"We can appreciate that some of the great benefits resulting from successful (seed contribution) programs of this type is the fine effect upon the morale of the people of both the giving and receiving nation."

Biggio further urged that when seed contributions are made, trade members give "only seed of highest quality, adopted to climatic conditions and in usable quantities."

Russian War Relief, Inc., is soliciting the entire seed trade in an endeavor to provide Russia's hard-pressed farmers with part of the vegetable seed they need for the planting of millions of new tilled acres. Much of Russia's former food producing areas are temporarily in the hands of the Nazis. Seeds sought by Russian War Relief, Inc., include carrot, beet, cabbage, turnip, onion, radish, squash, spinach and lettuce.

Dr. Rupert Vance, research associate at the University of North Carolina, believes the south will enter a period of wide industrialization immediately following the war.

WHAT'S SHOWING
At the Campus
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday — "Invisible Agent," with Jon Hall and Peter Lorre.
At Guion Hall
Thursday, Friday — "The Fleet's In," with Dorothy Lamour, Eddie Bracken and Betty Hutton.

DALACE
PHONE 2-8879
THURS. - FRI. - SAT.
"White Cargo" with HEDY LAMARR WALTER PIGEON
PREVIEW SAT. NIGHT 11 P. M.
"A Night to Remember" with Loretta Young Brian Aherne

Campus
Telephone 4-1181
Box Office Opens 2 p.m.
TODAY - FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
"INVISIBLE AGENT" with ILLONA MASSEY JON HALL
Also Comedy — Sport Variety Views
PREVIEW SAT. NIGHT SUNDAY - MONDAY
"Ride 'Em Cowboy" ANNE GWYNNE ABBOT and COSTELLO

Guion Hall
New Weekday Schedule
Box Office Opens 2 P.M. Closes 10 P. M.
THURSDAY - FRIDAY
DOROTHY WILLIAM EDDIE LAMOUR-HOLDEN-BRACKEN
"THE FLEET'S IN"
Plus
Snapshots — Sarton
Red Riding-Hood

May We Express Our Appreciation . . .
for your patronage during the year and wish you a Merry Christmas and Very Happy New Year.
CAMPUS CLEANERS
Two Convenient Locations
New "Y" and Over Exchange Store