

# 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, is published three times weekly, and issued Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

Subscription rates \$3 per school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Office, Room 5, Administration Building. Telephone 4-5444.

1942 Member 1943  
Associated Collegiate Press

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## A Letter...

March 27, 1943

Editor, The Battalion.  
Dear Sir:

I am giving you below the excerpt from a letter I have received from the mother of one of our graduates, which she has lifted from a letter her son wrote to her. I thought you might want to publish this excerpt:

"Have passed through another week end, and to my surprise, am none the worse for it. Well, not much, anyway. This week was mathematics and, evidently, I did o.k. Those that didn't left this afternoon. College graduates who majored in mathematics were among those failing the course. And to think I was worried because, in A.&M. standards, I was relatively weak in math. Thirty out of the 180 candidates of my battery were sent out. At that rate we won't last long. I understand that this battery was exceptionally high in the class. The other batteries lost more than we did. Maybe it was because of the large number of ROTC students we have. Not all from A.&M. Some from Georgia Tech and Univ. of San Francisco. We of A.&M. are getting much better reports on Military than are the graduates of other ROTC colleges. Dr. Walton would love that if he knew. So should all Texans."

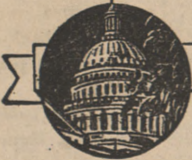
Sincerely yours,  
T. O. WALTON,  
President.

## "Quotable Quotes"

ACP

In 1950 the liberal arts college must have maintained the right to keep the word 'liberal' in its designation. This means the right to toss away what may have become useless and to add meanwhile whatever else has become 'liberalizing' in the education of the youth for a democracy after the end of the war.—W. Prewitt Eding, national president of the William Jewell Alumni association, takes a peek into education's future.

"The colleges must and will do their part to win the war, but they also have a part in the larger strategy of war and peace which they alone can play. They must conserve knowledge, teach the truth in more than contemporary perspective, promote the development of the individuals who comprise society and will shape its decisions."—President Paul Havens of Wilson College calls upon American colleges and universities to maintain their faith in liberal education.



## CAPITAL to CAMPUS

A. C. P.'s Correspondent Reports from Washington

### Drama in Bonds

College playwrights now can give their talents a workout on the subject of the human drama behind a war bond purchase.

The Treasury is running a playwriting contest on that theme—open to any student of any college or university. Scripts will be judged by drama department heads, with the winning entry of each school going to Washington for a national runoff.

### Comes-the-Peace-Note

The job of putting a war-groggy world back on its feet already is getting serious attention from U. S. Colleges. As last time, the task will largely be in civilian hands and qualified personnel will have a rare opportunity for valuable service.

A recent survey showed at least 17 schools are offering training for civilians expecting to do post-war relief and rehabilitation work abroad. They include Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Minnesota, Smith, Oberlin, Columbia, Michigan, NYU, Haverford, Kenyon, Barnard, Temple, MIT, Iowa, Vassar and Antioch.

## Something to Read

By Dr. T. F. Mayo

This column today is given over to the treatment of light reading in a light manner, light reading being almost anything which is not concerned with either fighting the war or winning the peace.

Mr. James Thurber, mocker of woman-kind, lover of dogs, is now in his forties. For two years he has been almost totally blind and his eyes are the subject of repeated painful operations. In that his special brand of biting humor has continued to embellish the New Yorker magazine in the form of short stories and Thurber drawings. Recently collected is a group of Thurber pieces (pieces for want of something better to call them) entitled *My World—and Welcome To It*. The collection is as varied as Mr. Thurber's world or anyone's world. It begins with "What Do They Mean It Was Brillig," a story about Mr. Thurber's colored maid, Della, who finds reeves in the yard and makes cretonnes for Mr. Thurber's soup. Mr. Thurber in turn spends many wild hours deciphering Della's aboriginal language.

There is an enthralling study of Willie Stevens, so-called moronic suspect in the famous Hall-Mills murder trial of 1936. Willie outsmarted the lawyers, the jury, and the public.

There is a lovingly devoted history of a black French poodle Mr. Thurber once owned. There are sketches about men and sketches about women and about how they try to live together.

Mr. Thurber, in the tradition of many intelligent humorists, has a mind haunted by dark shadows. Those shadows lurk in his funniest stories; often they take over completely and plunge the reader into the world of extreme neuroses, as in the story of the suicide who lies awake in a country house listening to a whi-poor-will. But, then, the Thurber drawings, of which there are many in *My World—and Welcome To It*, amuse at first glance and on a second drive home quite a wallop for those who care to stay and take it. Mr. Thurber, at no point, hints that his world is simple or kind. In his own words, "I suppose I should have been more saintly—but then, I don't saint very easily."

Small Town South is written by Sam Byrd, the talented young actor of Tobacco Road and Of Mice and Men. Sam Byrd went home in the spring to discover that a small town south is well furnished with which the characters of Mr. Erskine Caldwell has celebrated, only more so; "Old Man Cowan," says one of Sam's friends, "makes Jeeter look like a dancing master." Sam not only found the Lesters and child brides, crooks, big and little, and all the misfits of small town life, but he found, too, the kindness of the town, the memories of a happy childhood kept alive in places and friends, and that comfortable talent of people in small towns south: loafing and studying the mind.

My Rambles is another link in the history of our Texas ancestors who used the convenient phrase, "Gone to Texas," as a sufficient explanation to the curious. Solomon Alexander Wright tells of a good, early Texas life spent in the Big Thicket hunting for big game, fishing, riding, and swapping yarns around the camp fire.

An excellent collection of short stories from Latin America has been added to the Browsing Room fiction shelf. It takes its title from the longest story, *Fiesta in November*. The stories are all good; their wide variety gives us an insight into Latin America which we have not had in more stereotyped literature from there.

Emerson P. Schmidt, associate professor of economics at the University of Minnesota, has left for Washington to serve as an economist for the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Associated Women students of Washington State college are recommending that each co-ed add three hours of voluntary gymnasium work a week to her regular program.

In all, about 100 scholarships are available for freshmen who will enter N. J. C. next fall.

### English I, Prof. H. L. Ickes

Secretary of Interior Ickes is not one to swallow his irritations in private. If something annoys him, he lets people know about it. A year ago, for example, he issued a memo lecturing Interior employees on the use of the comma. A few months ago, he threatened to fire stenographers who wasted paper.

Now he's cracked down on a favorite Washington word—directive. He recently saw a document using the offensive word five times, he said. He wanted no more of it. What he didn't say, however, was that the noisome document announced sweeping powers over the fish production phase of the food program had been turned over to Harold L. Ickes.

In Dutch high schools and universities, the "resurrection" is featured by an impending purge of students who persist in thinking they can "undisturbedly choose sides against National Socialism, against the occupying power." The wholesale purge, according to Anton Mussert, Nazi puppet leader of the Netherlands, will strike at student "agitators, saboteurs and henchmen of the gentlemen of London and Washington."

## PRIVATE BUCK . . . By Clyde Lewis



"I tell you I'm NOT singing, Colonel. Those are crickets you hear!"

## ★ BACKWASH ★ "CANDY" MAGRANE

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

### One Year Ago Today . . .

The first contingent of 200 naval enlisted men arrived here this morning from Houston and Dallas at 9:53 and 12:10 o'clock, to receive the four months course in elementary radio work. A corps review will be held at 2 o'clock in honor of the navy men and as a practice review for Parent's day on April 5.



Showing real slugging power for the first time this season, the Texas Aggies blasted out 18 hits to defeat the Southern Methodist Mustangs 19-5 yesterday afternoon in Dallas. Guion Hall had Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in "Strike Up the Band" with the Campus theatre presenting "No Hands On the Clock" with Chester Morris and Jean Parker.

The "eagle" paid off to those juniors and seniors with contracts to the tune of \$22.50 and all concerned were very, very happy.

### Sweepings . . .

Back in those good old pre-war days at Aggeland the story was told of the group of "wet-heads" who, upon growing tired of Hotard's daily fare, sent a fish out for something fresh. When the freshman returned he had ten quarts of whiskey and a loaf of bread. In unison the sophomores howled indignantly: "What in hell are we going to do with all that bread?"

Aggie: "Of course, I'll be liberal with my money after we're married, darling. I'll spend it on you as fast as I can make it. Now, what else do you want to know?" Modern Gal: "How fast do you make it?"

In China, the people have the right ideas. They sit on the floor at the beginning of the party, instead of at the end.

The end of a beautiful friendship comes when a neighbor attempts to repay the borrowing of a 24-point can of fruit with a six-point can of soup.

Father loves mother  
Mother loves other men,  
Mother lies in the grave  
Father in the pen.

The officers were having difficulty in getting correct salutes from the men. Lecture followed lecture, but apparently to no avail. A negro private met a captain one morning and greeted him with "Howdy, Boss."

Followed a long tirade from the captain on the proper way to salute.

The buck private listened in silence, scratched his head and finally said, "Lawsy, boss, if Ah'd thought you was goin' to get so mad about it, Ah wouldn't of spoke to you a-tall."

Soon after the freshman had been enrolled at A. & M. he sent this letter home:

"Dear Dad: Gue\$\$\$ what I need mo\$t of all? That i\$ correct. Plea\$e \$end it \$oon. Be\$t wi\$he\$. Your \$on, John."

"Dear John: "Nothing ever happens here and there is practically NO business. I have a NOtion that the bank will call my NOte. Write me aNOther letter soon, but NOW I have to say goodbye. Best wishes from your dad."

A young mother came to the door of the nursery and saw her husband standing over the baby's crib. Silently she watched him as he stood looking down at the sleeping infant. In his face she read rapture, doubt, admiration, ecstasy, incredulity, wonder. Deeply touched and with her eyes glistening, she tiptoed, slipped her arms around him.

"A penny for your thoughts," she said tenderly. Started into consciousness he blurted: "For the life of me I don't see how anybody can make a crib like that for \$3.49."

When you think the world's against you  
And you're feeling sad and blue,  
Feel not sorry for yourself, friend;  
Pity those who live with you.

### Victory Signs . . .

There have been many changes around Aggeland this past year, but I doubt if any have affected the minds of the average Aggie quite like the activation of the ERC's.

Around 12:30 yesterday afternoon several bus loads of the cavalry ERC's rolled into place in front of the commandant's office. To see a bunch of cavalrymen whom you've spent many hours on horseback with wearing long G. I. pants and plastic helmets, with a haircut that defies all attempts at good looks, is quite a shock. Perhaps it was only my imagination, but I seemed to sense a change in something more than the mere appearance of these troops. Every command issued seemed to have a snap to it that was never present before.

Even though tired from the long bus ride and the rigorous three days of uniform fitting, drilling, and "shots" they went through, these men acted like seasoned soldiers who could take anything that was given for them to do. Lots of questionable changes have been made around here since last year, but I feel this is one which will profit Uncle Sam immeasurably and keep the spirit of the corps at a new height.

### Campus Pick Ups . . .

We thought someone had broken a leg at last Friday's P.E. class from the huge crowd gathered around someone. On closer examination, however, we discovered it to be Bill Andrews of C Inf., one of the first ERC's to be seen back on the campus in G-I issues. The "bull" was going along fast and deep for quite some time until the old roll call broke up the "conference." Boy, aren't those fatigues classy looking, though? Oh yeah!

## The Lowdown on . . . Campus Distractions

By Tom Journey

By Nelson Karbach  
Today through Saturday at Guion Hall is "Journey for Margaret" with Robert Young, Laraine Day and Margaret O'Brien. Put this picture on your must list.

The story concerns a war correspondent, Robert Young, and his wife, Laraine Day who are covering the blitz in London. Miss Day is expecting an addition to the family when she is injured by a bomb explosion and loses her child. This causes a severe psychological reaction and she returns to her home back in the United States. Meanwhile, Hubby Robert Young stays on in London. One of his assignments takes him to a school for small children who have been shell shocked by the blitz. While visiting the school, a boy and a girl become attached to him. There are several good scenes when Robert Young plays papa to them.

Robert Young decides to take them back to America and adopt them as his own children in order to take the place of the unborn child. There are difficulties in getting plane reservations but the problem is solved when they are taken aboard as baggage.

You will long remember the acting of little Margaret O'Brien as Margaret. Her portrayal of a shell shocked baby is nothing short of excellent.

Scenes of the blitz on London seem so realistic that you will try to duck bomb fragments. The Lowdown: Don't miss it. An excellent picture that you will long remember.

Columbia pulled a lemon when it produced "Atlantic Convoy," starting today at the Campus. The players are John Beal, Virginia Field,

Radcliffe college is offering two \$500 fellowships for training courses in personnel administration.

Who's Who for 1942-43 lists 31,692 men and women noted in American life. Of these, 22,302 are college graduates and 5,622 are members of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Harvard university department of fine arts is offering a special six-week evening course in industrial and civil camouflage.

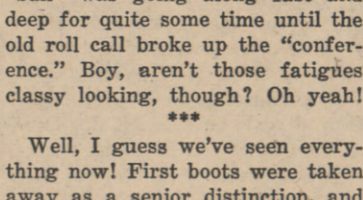
INVEST IN VICTORY!  
Our boys can take the War to the enemy, if we back them up with ships and tanks and guns! But that takes money!  
Help your Government to put the tools of war into the hands of our soldiers by purchasing War Savings Bonds and Stamps. And remember . . . just one Bond can't lick the Axis any more than just one gun! It takes millions of Americans buying War Savings Bonds and Stamps every pay day!  
Bonds cost \$18.75 and up . . . and they pay you back one-third more in only 10 years! Stamps cost 10¢, 25¢, and up . . . soon total the price of a Bond if bought regularly.  
Help our boys on the fighting fronts wherever they may be! Buy War Savings Bonds and an investment for yourself and your country.

### Campus

4-1181

TODAY - WEDNESDAY

BOMBING U-BOATS TO BITS!



A COLUMBIA PICTURE

with Bruce BENNETT • Virginia FIELD • John BEAL

Also

CARTOON — SPORTS

New Prices

Effective April 1st  
Due to Higher Operating Expenses

Admission - 30c  
(Including Tax)

Matinee and Night  
Special Prices to  
Men in Uniform

25c  
(Including Tax)

Matinee and Night

and Bruce Bennett who would have done better by staying home the day the picture was made. It is one of these second-rate spy pictures where the audience can tell what is going to happen about ten minutes before it takes place.

John Beal is a meteorologist at one of the Army's North Atlantic patrol bases in Iceland. An SOS comes from a sinking ship and Beal goes along with the rescue plane. A nurse and several children are found floating on a raft. While making the landing, the pilot is hurt and the landing gear is damaged. Beal suddenly learns how to fly so he takes the survivors back to the base.

One of the rescued children becomes seriously ill and needs serum which is on one of the ships in a convoy. A local spy ring gets wind of what is going on and calls in one of Hitler's submarines to do a little dirty work. Of course, Beal is suspected and it is found that he is a deserter from the Marines.

Beal gets captured by the spies but manages to warn the Army and the submarine is destroyed and the spies captured. In the end it turns out that Beal really isn't such a bad fellow after all so the nurse marries him.

You've seen the same plot a hundred times before. There are a few shots of sinking ships but you've already seen them in the news reels. It's one of those pictures to see when you have nothing better to do.

The Lowdown: Take your girl along to see this picture. You can at least keep yourself occupied.



Phone 4-1168

TODAY - WEDNESDAY

"JOURNEY FOR MARGARET"

Starring  
ROBERT YOUNG  
LORRAINE DAY

Also  
Merrie Melody  
"TALE OF TWO KITTIES"  
News — Short

THURSDAY - FRIDAY

"Always in My Heart"



4-1181

TODAY - WEDNESDAY

BOMBING U-BOATS TO BITS!



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**GEORGE'S**

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Delicious Sandwiches

Candies — Cold Drinks