

### Newspaper or Special Order? . . .

What's in store in the way of a newspaper next Fall is rather indefinite.

So far, it can't be definitely said that the present press facilities could print one issue a week to reach every student and faculty member. Read that again—one issue a week.

In years gone by, student publications have published a tri-weekly paper, and two technical publications and the comic magazine each month.

The obligations of the press have increased, but the facilities of the press have not. Employment of printers is practically at a stand still due to the housing shortage. This isn't blaming the press for not being able to meet the demand but someone is at fault.

A weekly issue for the long semesters when the campus and Bryan Field will be packed will be nothing more than a special order telling of new appointments and of new rules and regulations.

### Whose Club? . . .

Last Monday night in the old Assembly Hall the Ex-Servicemen's Club held a called meeting to hear the final mess hall committee report and to act on the selection of a new co-editor of the Battalion. There were approximately 140 veterans present.

With those present the president-pro-tem tried to carry on a business meeting and to steer clear of radical moves and ideas. This is true at all meetings of this organization. The policies and decisions arrived at by the club do not represent the entire ex-servicemen enrollment here. Are they true? Do you agree with the way the organization is being run and operated? If you don't, tomorrow morning as you pick up that brush to shave, blame it on the fellow you see staring at you with those dreary eyes, not those few who care.

In bull sessions, in classes and in The Battalion poll conducted recently a great deal has been said concerning this organization which expresses the opinions of thousands with the vote of just over a hundred. Have you done your part?

The club was recognized by the Dean of Men's Office as one of the most influential on the campus last February. The Former Student Association included the officers in the board of directors of their organization. It looked like there existed one organization large enough and strong enough to successfully engage in business, scholastic and social activities. Somewhere, someone dropped the ball. The quarterbacking could have been poor in some moves, however the blame is placed on the whole team.

The Battalion is not in defense of the club, its policies or its being. It is under no obligation to further the activities of any club or organization. It tries in every way to tell the students and community of all meetings of such gatherings. The information included in announcements is limited to that revealed by the officers of the clubs before meetings. Reporters or editors cover the large meetings. Many organizations handle their own write-ups and announcements and other forms of publicity in the Battalion. The Architecture Society seems to be "on the ball" in this respect.

Still, all of the publicity and stories that could be printed won't correct the misrepresentation that you are complaining of. You alone can correct this. The Ex-Servicemen's Club has done some good, scholastically and socially.

The question remains, "Whose club?"

### Star-Gazers . . . . .

Star-gazing at Texas A. & M. is not confined to students with dates strolling down Military Walk after a prom. Some serious star-gazing has been done recently from the roof of the Physics building, whenever Professor E. E. Vezey takes his 12-inch reflecting mirror up to the roof and puts it in the mounting prepared there.

But this a catch-as-catch-can method of sight-seeing the stars, and a group of students is now banding together to form a new organization, the A. & M. Astronomy Club. Their first project is to get a water-proof shelter erected over the telescope mounting. With such a shelter, the telescope would be ready for use as soon as the roof was rolled back. Aggie Dick Bolin and John Holman are seeking assistance in building such a shelter.

A 12-inch reflecting telescope is no mean piece of equipment. Many a college with courses in astronomy has to use less efficient telescopes. This instrument was built by the physics department, and Professor Vezey himself ground the mirror—a remarkable job.

It is hoped that the new Astronomy Club will be able to get their shelter built, and that A. & M. will be able to boast that the most ancient of sciences has a following here.

### A Fine Show . . .

If one of "His Majesty's" ships ever met with similar success as did H. M. S. Pinafore here last week, it could consider it a job well done.

Congratulations to the cast, directors, orchestra and stage hands. Congratulations, too, to those local parents who transported the younger members of the cast to and from the old assembly hall for the many nights of practice.

The production has been spoken of by many who saw it as the greatest ever staged by students, faculty and local high school students. It certainly set a standard for those productions to follow. It definitely strengthened the fact that A. & M. needs a good theatre or auditorium which can be used year around in comfort.

### Maroon and White . . . . .

Maroon and white is our favorite color combination (naturally) and we are glad to see so much of it in evidence. The Bryan-College Traction Co. is now engaged in re-painting its busses in that color scheme. The B. & C. U. department some time ago painted most of its trucks in our college colors, and the no-parking spaces are again being marked with maroon. More power to the painters!

## The Battalion

Office, Room 5, Administration Building, Telephone 4-5444, 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 circulated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, except during the months of June, July and August, when it is published weekly and circulated on Thursday.

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## Letters

The Future of Texas A. & M. As a Military College

Editor:

Rarely does one see an article concerning the accomplishment of A. & M. men, which does not mention our contribution to the nation's armed forces. In typical Texas style, we emphasize the fact that the number of our officers surpassed that of any other school—well, we may be proud of that. Also, we like to think that the quality of these men is excellent; (and to this date there has been no evidence to the contrary) but what of the years to come? Will our school, which we look upon with pride and reverence, uphold its traditions or will it become just another school where military science is taught?

War-time necessities played havoc with our Aggie way of life. Post war restrictions have served only to render the cadet corps into a hounded minority. The senior class has lost power and prestige. Old Aggie's view with alarm an increased tendency to quell the traditions which have made our school—those traditions which inculcate our cadets with discipline and respect for constituted authority. The personality of a school is not affected by the way classes are taught or the way the grass is cut; it is our Aggie traditions which spell the difference here.

Needless to say, the past method of training at A. & M. can well stand on its excellent record. As a freshman my opportunities for study were seldom, if ever, infringed upon by the upper class. On the contrary, our organization commander sought to improve the scholastic standing of our unit in every manner possible. Every cadet studied from call to quarters until tattoo. Four years spent in the unit welded us with our Aggie spirit. It can be well understood why seniors cried at final review.

Our old Aggie system, whereby the commandant and the senior class jointly administer the affairs of the cadet corps, should be reinstated. Cadet officers should be placed in complete charge of their organizations. The argument that the present senior classes are not capable of assuming this responsibility is not a valid one. The seniors must be given an opportunity to be leaders if this school is to maintain the quality of its men. We look to our school officials for this restoration.

An Aggie who has seen it work and knows it will work again.

WRITER HAS PRAISE FOR AGGIE CHIVALRY

Editor, The Battalion:

After reading Jack Holliman's letter in the Batt, I was inspired to write a letter in a slightly different vein.

I would like the teachers and students to know that we young men who are here in school this summer appreciate the friendliness and courteousness, which is shown us. A. & M. is, after all, a man's school, and even though the students may thoroughly enjoy having their best girls here on weekends, I think they are probably glad that the school is not co-ed during the week. Individually or collectively, Aggies are tops for chivalry and courtesy shown to the "weaker" sex.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Allen E. Denton, Jr.

Campus Scandal—They Live Together With No Legality

You might call it a campus scandal. It could even be termed an insult to all that is upright and moral. But there they are: living together without the slightest hint of legality.

What's the straight dope on this thing? Yep, you guessed it—or did you? They are a pair of papaya plants now occupying a lion's share of the Department of Horticulture's greenhouse located south-east of the Science Building.

Papayas, or Carica papaya, if you desire technicalities, are tropical, herbaceous melon plants. The fruit is used as a fresh melon, for its enzymatic secretion papain, and as a base for soft drinks. The plant itself grows very rapidly and can attain a height of 25 feet in two years time. The two specimens here verify that statement.

This specie comes in three sexes and produces five distinct flower types. To add to this state of confusion, no less than four fruit variations are to be found. Here is the pay-off: the so-called male plant usually is capable of producing edible fruit! And Aggie's Mr. Papaya is no exception.

Pay close attention to what goes on in class—A. & M. Handbook.

LIBRARY ASKS RETURN OF BOOKS BY AUGUST 17

In order to make a partial inventory of volumes in the College Library and the Texas Engineers' Library, Paul S. Ballance, librarian, has requested that all borrowers return books on regular loan not later than August 17. This will make it possible to go forward with a program for accurate inventory of the books that the libraries possess. The cooperation of all borrowers is asked.

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Know Your Architecture

### Why a flat roof?

- COOLER
- CHEAPER
- MORE FLEXIBLE

(This is a continuation of a series of articles presented by the Architecture Society with the purpose of giving a few pertinent facts related to the Architecture of 1946.)

Contrary to popular opinion, a "modern" house does not necessarily have to have a flat roof. Contemporary homes, free from all traditional columns and gingerbread, can be built with a pitched roof as well as a flat one. But a flat roof does have some very definite advantages over the pitched one.

The flat roof is cooler. Doing away with the great pocket of air in an attic, the flat roof allows only the cool breeze to travel through the space between the roof joists. An excellent feature of the flat roof, proved successful in recent homes, is the possibility of flooding the roof with a layer of water to act as a cooling system.

The flat roof is more flexible than the pitched roof. The plan should be the primary consideration in any home; with a flat roof practically any plan can be covered easily and at a relatively low cost. But a pitched roof will limit the plan to a certain arrangement; there are numerous plans that cannot be executed with a pitched roof except at excessive costs. In only one case is it necessary to use a pitched roof—when the span is so great that a truss of some kind is required.

By cutting down the amount of lumber and other building material used in a roof, the flat roof is more economical than the pitched roof. In a flat roof almost two-thirds of the amount of lumber used in a pitched roof can be saved. Thus, the flat roof—cooler, more flexible, and more economical—becomes a very important element in the home of 1946.

### "Pinafore" Crew Receives A Wildcatting Aggie Welcome

by Vick Lindley

When His Majesty's Ship Pinafore dropped anchor here for two nights last week, the crew was given a rousing Aggie welcome. The seventy-year old operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan was found to be as fresh and amusing as when it was the "newest rage" for our great-grandparents. For, as was remarked by one spectator, "people haven't changed, snobs haven't changed at all, and even the Navy hasn't changed very much."

A near capacity audience crowded the old Assembly Hall each night and gave loud evidence of its approval. The unusual setting, showing the deck of an English Man-o-war, the colorful nineteenth century costumes, the stinging wit of the patter songs, all drew praise, and only the heat was subjected to the critics' scorn.

Fine voices were no novelty, as player after player burst into song. Outstanding were Miriam Forman of Houston wife of a veteran student, as Josephine, the captain's daughter; Watson Keeney of Weslaco as the daring sailor, Ralph Rackstraw; Ruth Echols of Galveston as Little Buttercup; and Helmut Quiram of Waco as the Bosun's mate. Harry Doran of San Saba lilted the lyrics of the Pinafore's captain, and Bernyce Jensen of College Station sang Hebe.

The crew of the Pinafore included Wesley Fiedler, Bob Seyle, John Helm, Fred Hall, Tommy Miller, A. D. Salmon, John Smith and John Buchanan.

In the orchestra were Wynette Vozzy, Mary Leland, Betty Back, Mary Bonnen, Anna Jean Boddy, Frances Copeland, Shirley Long, Gene Brock Beth Hale, Nelson McLain, Everett Semmonds, Richard Alvis, Tom Blankenship, Louie Hauer, Marjorie Winstead, Tom Leland, Richard Parker, Gerald Coughlin, C. B. Harrison, George Bynum; Louis Bains, Harry Otell, and Jimmy Rosenborough.

Tom Muddy painted the ship-set. The technical staff and stage crew were made up of members of the Aggie Players not on stage in this production. Already the group is making plans for their fourth production, next fall, when they present George M. Cohan's farcical who-dun-it, "The Tavern."

### New Book Tells of the Trials of Guarding Five Presidents

By Wilnora Barton

Readers' Advisory: College Library

Colonel Ed Starling was for thirty years on the Secret Service Detail which guarded five presidents from Wilson to Roosevelt. His story as told to Thomas Sugrue is one of the most interesting accounts of the official and unofficial lives of the presidents which I have ever read. In fact, Starling himself was an unusually interesting individual, but practically all of the book is devoted to tales about his job and the men who kept him busy. The book entitled "Starling of the White House" is remarkably free from prejudice or partisanship, and he gives up graphic and sometimes startling glimpses of the presidents he served, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, and Roosevelt.

From the introduction written by Sugrue we learn what manner of man could so completely and unselfishly give his life—waking and sleeping to public duty. Starling was a fine example of that American legend, the Kentucky gentleman. He was a Southerner, suh, and a staunch Presbyterian, which means that he was as politely determined and devoted to duty as any man could be.

By far the larger part of his book is given to the early years of his service. He tells of those months when Wilson was courting the lovely Mrs. Galt; the anxious time before we finally entered the first World War; and finally the breaking of Wilson and his ideals of a peaceful world. Wilson was Starling's favorite president, and he recounted his experiences with as fresh a memory as if they had occurred yesterday.

When Starling was assigned to the White House Detail he was told "Never let the President out of your sight." The Secret Service never spies on the private lives of the presidents, but they are ordered to stand by within hearing distance at all times, and they make themselves as unobtrusive as fence posts. It was with a great deal of embarrassment and some annoyance on both sides that the Service saw Wilson through the courtship of Mrs. Galt, later the second Mrs. Wilson. Starling was assigned to accompany the two on their rides and walks together—and the story he tells is a charming one.

It is typical of the man Starling to be as fair and as objective

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