

### More Popular Reading! . . .

"I'm an Irvin S. Cobb fan myself, but do you know that there isn't a single book of his in the library?"

This editorial is not directed at the library officials; nor is it directed at the selectors of books for the library. Instead, it is intended as food for thought for the administration.

First, a few facts about the Cushing Memorial Library, as given in a recent interview by Paul S. Ballance, librarian. There is a \$15,000 Special Agricultural Book Fund, derived from fees of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Veterinary medicine books have also been included in this field.

Next is an Agricultural Experiment Station Book Fund, amounting to \$10,000, to be used for this specific purpose. This amount consists of state appropriated funds.

The General Book Fund totals \$10,000, or two-fifths the amount of both agricultural funds. From this fund come fiction for several required English classes, books on architecture, engineering, liberal arts, chemistry, periodicals, and other various and sundry fields. As Mr. Ballance phrased it, "I bleed \$500 from this fund for popular reading books". In addition, this General fund is supplemented with donations from several A. & M. Mothers' Clubs throughout the state, amounting to \$200-\$250. Yearly periodical subscriptions amount to about \$4,500, deducted from this fund. All total, \$10,250 minus \$4,500, equals \$5,750, to be used each year for fiction, popular reading and other non-agriculture fields.

The librarian has asked the Former Students Association for \$10,000 as a special fiction and popular reading fund to be spread out over a period of three or four years. This would ease up on the situation to a great extent. Whether or not such a scheme will result is not known.

Reading broadens the mind—it broadens the all-round thinking ability of a person. Since many students enjoy reading as a pastime during the off-class hours, an increase in fictional books would be greatly appreciated.

### More Money for Vets? . . .

The Veteran Collegiate Association of New York University, which corresponds to our Veteran Student Association here, has sent to this campus a petition which they are circulating in Gotham, asking the Congress of the United States to increase our monthly allotments from \$65-90 to \$90-125. Our first impulse is to yell "That's for us!" and jump on the band wagon, starting such a petition here. Such an increase would help us catch up—temporarily, anyway—with the increased cost of living.

But it is always easy to ask for more money. Somebody has to pay that money eventually—and it is apt as not to be us. As college men, we are supposedly those on whom the burden will rest most heavily in future years. So before adding our names to such a scroll we want to think the whole thing through carefully.

The Batt is not saying at this time that we should or should not join in petitioning Congress for an increase. There is no simple answer.

At its first January meeting the Veteran Student Association will probably discuss this petition, and decide whether or not to circulate a similar document on this campus. In the meantime, we believe that veteran students should study the matter and be prepared to treat the matter thoughtfully when it comes up in meeting.

We don't want anyone to be forced out of school by inadequacy of the subsistence allowance. Neither do we want to be "pigs at the public trough."

So we ask for expressions of opinion from all veterans on the campus. Write your thoughts as letters to the Batt, if you like, or prepare them for the January meeting. We agree with the N.Y.U. group that "we must not disarm educationally." Whether or not we agree with the rest of their program will have to be settled by the veterans here in the next month.

### Whatsis 201 and 3-cent Stamp

We all are aware of the fact that progress and growth must go hand in hand. A. & M. has grown considerably in the past few years but one division has not planned progressively for this increase. We are referring to registration of the students for each successive semester.

At the present time the University of Texas is experimenting with a new technique of signing for classes in advance by mail. While this activity is only in its trial stage, it nevertheless has a great number of possibilities of becoming a useful and advantageous procedure. One of the beneficial accomplishments possible with a system of this type is the elimination of slow, tiresome lines during registration day when 8,500 students attempt to sign for their classes in seven hours.

It would be well for the registrar's office to make a study of the tactics used by T. u. this season, observing their mistakes and obstacles with the idea of incorporating the system here at A. & M. in the near future. Several other schools are employing this method of registration successfully and it was through a study of their actions that T. u. decided it would solve its registration problems brought about by an increased enrollment.

There can be no doubt that a need has arisen for some new method to carry out the enrolling of students. We cannot be absolutely sure that this registration by mail can be successfully carried out, but either that system or some other must soon be used to handle the situation.

The suggestion of a study of the university's idea is not so much a support of that method but is made to help further progress in facilitating the registration procedure.

#### AAH—THESE WOMEN COLLEGES

The Quebec Chronicle Telegraph, in an item from Saratoga Springs, N. Y., stated that a group of war veterans, studying at Skidmore College (for women) under the "emergency SEDUCTION PROGRAM", would play football.

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published semi-weekly and circulated on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

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## Letters

(Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to C. W. Crawford of the Athletic Council, a copy of which was brought to The Battalion office).

TO THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL  
Mr. C. W. Crawford, Chairman  
Athletic Council  
Campus

Dear Mr. Crawford:

We, the undersigned, have heard numerous rumors and reports pertaining to Coach Homer Norton and his staff. We would like to take this means of expressing our confidence in Mr. Norton. For the best interest and betterment of athletics in general at Texas A. & M., we would like the Council to stop these rumors. In our judgment, Mr. Norton has been unjustly criticized. We are proud of having had the privilege of playing under his leadership and point with pride in his achievements and records.

Signed by the following:  
Monte Monieroff Willie F. Zapalac  
Tom Mumma Bob Goode  
Marion D. Flanagan Jesse Burditt, Jr.  
Stanley Hollmig Merl Prokop  
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Jim Flowers Frank V. Torno  
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#### \$500,000 CHAPEL

Dear Editor:  
A \$500,000 chapel! Ever since I read that article in the Batt, my blood pressure has been hitting a new high. In every classroom and on all parts of the campus, we see an inadequacy of equipment, buildings, and teachers that is appalling. Into this terrific shortage comes an announcement of the proposed half-million dollar chapel, when about the only thing A. & M. has enough of is church space, and the one church that is really lacking is making space now.

In fact College Station can well be proud of the beautiful churches built and being built to accommodate students and residents. They say the chapel will be non-denominational. That means it will be everybody's chapel—and nobody's in particular.

Now I'm religious myself, and drive from Bryan to College every Sunday to attend the fine preaching at our church, but being religious cannot make me believe there is any excuse for blowing a half-million dollars on something entirely unnecessary when every department in the school makes excuses for not having this or that piece of essential equipment. Only today we were told it was necessary to omit a lab exercise because the equipment to perform it was not available.

We need a new gym, more dorm space, more and better instructors, livestock for the AH department, a science building together with equipment and specimens for it, engineering, chemistry, and veterinary equipment, research funds for other fields, air conditioning and so on far into the night. A lengthy list, eh?

But we need a \$500,000 chapel like I need a \$500,000 wart on my nose!

Sincerely,  
Hugh M. Wallace, Jr., '46

### Lewis Appeals for Research Workers

An appeal for more students to take post graduate work and part time research jobs was made to the agriculture seniors by Dr. John Lewis of the Experiment Station, Thursday afternoon in the Chemistry lecture room.

Dr. Lewis stated that at least thirty positions were now open for well-qualified scientific research workers and that due to the present shortage of well-trained men many of these positions will be broken down to part-time jobs and offered to men who have a basic interest in research and who plan to do post graduate work.

Dr. Ide P. Trotter, of the Extension Service, also made a talk on the need of more men as county agents to disseminate the information from the experiment

## Santa's Pack has GIFTS Galore

Special to The Battalion — Far North Correspondent

Rather than face Santa and the cold winds of the North Pole yesterday, our Far North Correspondent decided to enjoy the tropical weather of the southland, and filching a few pennings from the Student Publications treasury, placed a long distance call to old Kris Kringle.

After having the long distance operator in Bryan tell him there was no North Pole in Brazos County, an explanation to the switchboard supervisor, whose illusions about Santa had not been shattered by street corner conversations, finally brought connections.

Santa at first refused to speak to our correspondent, but the promise of a one-month pass to Guion Hall persuaded him to give out a little more information.

"But I'll accept that pass only if Tom Puddy orders first-run movies for 1947. I can't stand the heat, so Guion will have to be air-conditioned, too," declared Santa.

"To Claude Buntny, the Batt reporter, who is reduced to the degradation of working for the publicity office, I'll give tolerance and understanding to bear up under the strain of his burden.

"And here's a gift I give willingly, for I've detected the need for it with my own ears. Prof. Al B. Nelson gets a sound proof classroom for his tirades against the Roosevelt administration.

"Friends of Joe Putegnat, Town Hall manager, wants me to present to Joe in recognition of his past performance a medalion with these words inscribed, 'They also serve who only stand and wait.'"

"For Grady Elms, club advisor and expert on national affairs, a year's subscription to all the daily newspapers in the state."

At this point, the operator interrupted saying that the three minutes were up. Our correspondent slushed her with "Money means nothing to the Battalion!"

Santa continued, "No doubt Col. Miley would prefer a silver star, but I'm sending him the Blue Star.

"For George, advice. 'Keep your eye upon the doughnut, and not upon the price.'"

"And to another preparer of gastronomic delicacies, Jay Peniston, I'm sending this poem:

In this dull world,  
there's nothing drearia  
Than eating  
In a cafeteria."

With this bit of poesy, Santa closed the conversation. The Batt's correspondent, after trying vainly to wheedle more gift previews from the old gen, gave up in disgust.

"Reverse the charges, operator," he said, as he slammed the receiver down.

### BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

## Another Esquire Sports Reader And a Story of Old Amarillo

ESQUIRE'S SECOND SPORTS READER: Edited and with an introduction by Arnold Gingrich.

Not so long ago we reviewed Esquire's First Sports Reader; it was such a hit with the students that I can not resist telling you about the Second Sports Reader which has all the ear marks of a very popular book indeed among the sports-minded public.

Reader's of the First Sports Reader will find a treat in store for them. While it contained only miscellaneous non-fiction sports articles, this book presents a collection of fifty stories of Esquire's most outstanding sports fiction.

Such notable authors as Irwin Shaw, Conrad Aiken, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Paul Gallico have contributed stories. The table of contents boasts one of Ernest Hemingway's stories, a bullfight story in his best Spanish manner; also a tale by Charles Grayson about Mexican cock fighting. To the reader who thinks Esquire is a periodical devoted to the "well-dressed man and the undressed woman" this will be a pleasant and enlightening surprise.

MAVERICK TOWN: A story of old Tascosa. By John L. McCarty. Norman, University of Okla. Press.

One of the most recent and valuable contributions to Southwestern History, Mr. McCarty's book about gun-roaring, whiskey-drinking old Tascosa, is a model of workmanship and factual reporting. Mr. McCarty is an Amarillo newspaper man who has long been interested in the colorful and legend packed history of the Texas panhandle, and his book reveals the painstaking research which he has done in this field.

Tascosa is situated on Canadian River in Oldham County, Texas.

Aggeland Orchestra to Play at Inaugural Ball

Bill Turner's Aggeland Orchestra will add another feather in their cap when they play for Governor-elect Beauford Jester's Inaugural Ball on next January 17. This will undoubtedly be the big moment on the social calendar at Austin, so what could be more natural than an Aggie aggregation playing in Gregory Gymnasium!

Advantages of extension and research work were pointed out by J. L. Matthews and any one interested was asked to see Dr. Lewis or Dean Shepardson.

Merry Xmas  
SWEETEN the OCCASION  
with  
*Kings*  
Chocolates  
for American Queens

JOSHUA BEENE AND GOD: By Jewel Gibson. New York, Random House, 1946.

Joshua is a latter day prophet who spends his days exhorting the degenerate Texas cotton farmers to return to righteousness. Josh thinks he's the greatest prophet of all times—even outshining those of ancient Palestine. He's not sure God can handle everything by himself and that with a minimum of cooperation, he can repair the matters that God has overlooked.

The way Josh manages to keep his village in awe is not so unique. He's very old, and has an excellent memory, especially where local scandals are concerned. These facts not only make his prophesy business seem authentic, but as a blackmailer he does all right, too.

WHERE ARE WE HEADING? By Sumner Wells. New York, Harper Bros. 1946.

Mr. Wells's new book brings up to date his survey of our foreign policy and what has happened since he wrote "Time for Decision". This has been called an evaluation of our foreign policy since Roosevelt. In his characteristically clear, analytical style, Mr. Wells discusses a long list of failures of our State Department. His accusations leave one wondering whether anything at all has been accomplished since the termination of the war. He believes that in the summer 1944 the United States passed up the greatest opportunity to "lead the world in peace and decency" and that our foreign policy has lost its guiding principals set down by the late President Roosevelt.

Mr. Wells discusses some interesting phases of "what's been going on" and all of them are causes for anxiety to every American citizen.

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### WHAT'S COOKING?

(Ed. Note: All organizations who wish their Christmas dances listed must submit name, time, and place by Wednesday noon, December 18th.)

TUESDAY, December 17

6:00 p. m. Spanish Club picnic. Members meet on steps of YMCA.

7:00 p. m. East Texas Club, YMCA.

7:00 Engineers Magazine staff, Room 109, ME Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Brawn County A&M Club, Room 123, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Panhandle A&M Club, Room 228, Acad. Bldg.

7:15 p. m. SAE, ASME, and I Ae S, Physics Lecture Room, D. H. Levin, Consolidated Aircraft, Speaks on "Influence of Jets and Turbines in Aircraft Design".

7:15 p. m. Houston A&M Club, Room 129, Acad. Bldg.

7:30 p. m. Kream & Kow Club, Creamery Lecture Room.

8:00 p. m. Palestine A&M Club, Room 303, Acad. Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, December 18

7:00 p. m. El Paso A&M Club, Room 123, Acad. Bldg.

7:30 p. m. AIEE, EE Lecture Room. "Sign of Reactive Power".

7:30 p. m. United Science Clubs, Room 32, Science Bldg. Reports from Texas Academy of Science convention.

THURSDAY, December 19

7:00 p. m. Ellis County Club, Room 225, Acad. Bldg. Christmas dance tickets for Ellis County Aggies, Room 426, No. 16.

7:00 p. m. Houston County A & M Club, Room 305, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Johnson County A&M Club, Room 303, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Kaufman County A & M Club, Room 205, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Eastland and Stephens County students invited to organizational meeting of club. Christmas dance plans.

7:00 p. m. Young County A&M Club, Room 125, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Galveston A&M Club, Room 32, Science Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Land of the Lakes Club, Room 324, Acad. Bldg.

7:00 p. m. Victoria County A & M Club, Room 107, Acad. Bldg.

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3 DAYS  
Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

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Starring VIVIAN BLAINE, PERRY COMO, HARRY JAMES, GARMEN MIRAMANDA  
Directed by LEWIS SEILER • Produced by BRYAN FOY  
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Mickey Mouse News

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DARLIN' DON'T FORGET TO HAND IN MY PICTURE TO VANITY FAIR BEFORE THE DEADLINE — JAN. 15