

Sports Take Spotlight . . .

It is a pleasant thing, after months of controversy, to turn to thoughts of sport, of agricultural and engineering wonders, of mothers and Mothers' Day. In this issue, the entire front page has been turned over to the sports department to tell about Aggie athletes, who will demonstrate on Saturday what is in store for the rest of the year. Saturday's issue will be devoted to Agriculture-Engineering Day and Mothers' Day features.

Once upon a time, this institution was known far and wide as the "Athletic and Military College of Texas." We have never wanted to "overemphasize" sports here, to the detriment of learning.

But athletics has certainly played a large part in the history of A. & M. Our huge intramural program spreads athletic benefits among all students. A few years ago our football teams were tops in the nation—and they may be again. This year our swimming, track, and golf teams have been ones we could be proud of. The baseball team, as this editorial is written, is No. 2 in the Southwest Conference. Last year's basketball and football teams just about broke even in the Conference, both ending in the middle of the "final results" column. But they were both scrappy teams, that frequently scared league-leaders.

We're proud of our sports representatives, and we wish them well. In their honor, we have formed the Aggie T on Page 1. (Can you find it?)

Both Good and Bad . . .

The Veterans Association this week asked the Exchange Store committee to allocate 1947 excess profits to the library, for purchase of books and for eventual air-conditioning. The Student Union Building operating fund, to which the shared-profits were given this year, is a worthy fund, but the project was not popular with most veterans. Veteran representatives on the Exchange Store committee, knowing this, asked the VSA meeting for opinions, and the opinion expressed was that next year's fund should go to the library.

This was a good and proper move. The library certainly needs such assistance. We hope that the full Exchange Store committee—including faculty members—will accept this suggestion. Later it will probably be wise to again use the "profit-sharing plan" to provide the Union Building with bowling alleys, pool tables, cash registers, etc., (that being the function of the operating fund).

Not so good was the fact that the Veterans Association, after asking six questions in so sensational a manner as to rock the state of Texas, has failed to state whether or not it considers those questions satisfactorily answered.

Not only the A. & M. student body, but all people of Texas, have a right to ask, "Well, what do you say now?" It is high time that the VSA officers, or the club in meeting assembled, let their present views be known.

Evaluating the Press . . .

An amazing proportion of the critical writing about newspapers has been of the wild-eyed expose variety. Some of it is constructive. Much of it is bunk.

Now what of the charge that newspapers are big business, are often monopolistic? It is true that there has been a marked tendency in the past quarter century toward newspaper mergers, and many cities have only one newspaper, or two newspapers owned by the same publisher. It seems obvious that this trend reflects primarily the economic development of this mass production age. Newspapers have greatly expanded their services to the public, both in content and in distribution. Newspapers are bigger and thicker, and they are delivered rapidly over greatly expanded circulation areas. Of course, this has greatly increased the plant, equipment, organization and capital required.

Certainly one result is far better newspapers. One strong newspaper can do a far better job than three or four weak ones. Also, a strong newspaper is far more secure in its independence than one which is in constant financial jeopardy. I doubt if any well-informed persons seriously believe any more that newspapers are influenced by advertisers.

It is certain that the newspaper of tomorrow will be a far better newspaper. Most of us agree readily with our critics that we have been overconcerned with reporting those things which involve merely novelty, shock, violence or conflict. The oldtime newspaper man who insists that a news sense is something intuitive, something which escapes definition, is going out of date. There has been a sharp curtailment of the printing of crime news over the country.

But the main thing is, the newspaper of tomorrow will concentrate on the significant happenings all over the world. This world has grown small. The newspaper man will be increasingly better trained, better educated and more specialized. Even today, a great newspaper has a staff organized almost like a college faculty.

Mere routine reporting of facts will not be enough. That can only bring on that "crisis of meaninglessness" of which Sevellon Brown warned the Press Institute. We will have far more conscientious, objective putting of the facts into perspective, more background and explanation. The process must necessarily be selective. The reader can absorb only so much.
—Claude Jagger

JUST CALL HIM JOE DOAKS!

While in San Antonio one night, Marino Anderson, Quita, Ecuador history major at TCU, stayed in a hotel. The clerk, informed Marino, after he registered, that the hotel was extremely crowded and that the hotel couldn't possibly accommodate all the persons listed.

"Anyway," continued the irked clerk, "you aren't planning to put all these people in one room, are you?"

"But I'm alone," contested Marino, and he proceeded to clarify the befuddled situation. Marino simply explained that the signature—Carlos Rogue Raul Jenaro Marino Anderson Ribadeneira Von Kiessel Marquez de Trastamara—was his full name.

The Battalion

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If World Splits . . . Then What About Russia?

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.
A top-heavy advantage lies on the side of the United States and Britain in the race with Russia for world power. A measure of that advantage is vital, as a result of failure of the latest effort to agree on terms of peace and of inability of the big powers to find a basis for operating the world as a unit. In any race for postwar position, Russia starts with a heavy handicap. U. S. and Britain start with an edge of at least 6 to 1 in the resources on which they can draw from their sphere, compared with the resources on which Russia can draw in her sphere.

A challenge by Russia that could have only war as its outcome is unlikely as long as this one-sided situation exists. Russia, however, appears to think that she can make more progress in developing resources open to her than U. S.-Britain can make in the remainder of the world. Russia seems to be betting that she can make her system work, while U. S.-Britain will be unable to make the economic system of the outside world work for long. At Moscow, in the latest conference of foreign ministers, Russia refused to make concessions that would open the way to cooperation with nations outside her sphere.

Over all, in developed resources, Russia starts in a weak position. Industrial production in the Russian sphere—including Finland, the Baltic countries, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania, and the Soviet zones in Germany, Austria, and Korea—is only 15% of the world's total. That leaves 85% for the remainder of the world, in which U. S. and Britain are dominant. The U. S. alone has about 50% of the world's industrial production. Most of the other 35% is in Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Japan, and the western zones of Germany. Steel production in the world is equally lopsided, with only 15% for the Russian sphere. Coal production is in line with steel and industry in general, with 16% in Russia's orbit and 85% in that of U. S.-Britain. Electric-power capacity shows Russia with an even smaller share than for coal and steel. Power output in both the Russian and U.S.-Britain spheres increased greatly during the war, but Russia's share remains about the same, at 11%, compared with 89% for U.S.-Britain. Crude-petroleum output reveals one of Russia's greatest weaknesses. Her present share is only 10%. Transportation likewise is a weak link in Russia's industrial setup. Of the world's railroad mileage, she and the other countries affiliated with her have 15%. But they have only 2% of the world's all-weather highways, 2% of the world's motor vehicles, and less than 3% of the world's merchant shipping.

Food-production capacity, however, finds Russia in a relatively good position, at least potentially. Although her sphere includes 17% of the world's population, it contains 33% of the world's crop land, or about 2 acres per person. This compares with 4/5 of an acre per person in the U. S.-British portion of the world.

Conclusions to be drawn from all these facts relate directly to the outlook for peace. Russia's weakness obviously is so great that, for a long time to come, she will be in no position to start an offensive war against U. S.-Britain. Decisive factors in the last war were steel, oil and transportation, and, as seen above, Russia is lacking in each. According to U. S. appraisers, Russia's aims are two! She is determined to keep her dominant position in the area she controls and to make its economy work by the planned method she is accustomed to using. She intends to create the capital she needs by compelling her people to tighten their belts. As far as possible, she will integrate the resources, industries and trade of the countries along her border with her own. In the second place, according to this U. S. appraisal, Russia expects to make headway in the rest of the world by waiting until the capitalist and semisocialist countries break down in chaos and civil war,

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Letters

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This will save many dollars and also keep the fellows in a good mood. It's very uncomfortable to sleep under a glaring light so let this letter get to someone who can do something about it.
Yours truly,
J. D. F. Boggs, Jr.
Dorm 9

"SHOOT TO KILL"

To whom it may concern:
Residents of Veterans' Village have been aware of a "window-pecker" and "prowler" who has had occupants in a state of alarm for the past three months. We do not wish to accuse any person or group of persons of being the offender. However, we are inserting this notice in the Batt in the hope that the responsible party may see it and will realize the anxiety that he is causing the families here.

We should also like to add a warning that two pranksters came very close to being shot last Saturday night. A similar incident may not result in the culprit being so fortunate.

If you have business out here, you are welcome to come, and feel free to do so. We ask your co-operation; if you are asked to stop: STOP! This warning may be given only once.
Signed,
JAMES M. ROBERTSON, '45
and 24 others

and then by moving in through Communist parties. She is convinced that the U. S. cannot restore the non-Communist world to working order, and that sooner or later she will have an opportunity to take it over by default. U. S.-British policy, which now will be placed in effect in place of non-cooperation with Russia, will be to go ahead with the economic development of Western Germany. Output of coal and a variety of industrial goods will be pushed, with a view of raising Germany's exports and making her self-supporting. As far as possible, trade relations between Western Germany and Eastern Europe will be maintained, and any efforts by Russia to swing Eastern European countries completely into her own trade orbit will be resisted. Even if a complete split of Europe between East and West becomes a fact, U. S. and Britain will go ahead with whatever measures are necessary to fit Western Germany into the non-Communist part of the world.

In any event, U. S. and Britain are determined to put Western Europe back to work, get normal trade restored, and show that the Western world can continue to outstrip Russia in the production and exchange of goods.

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THE EXCHANGE STORE

History of 7th Air Force Is 'One Damned Island'

By Wilnora Barton
Readers' Adviser
ONE DAMNED ISLAND AFTER ANOTHER by Howard Clive
This is the saga of the Seventh Air Force which came into being after December 7, 1941, from the old Hawaiian Air Department and from the chaos and ruin of Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows Airfields. This account constitutes the official history of the operations of the Seventh Air Force in World War II.

★
LYDIA BAILEY by Kenneth Roberts.
With characteristic vigor and intimacy of style Roberts creates his most superb woman character. The time is 1800, and the plot weaves in world shaking events from Boston's Alien and Sedition trials to Bonaparte's attempt to re-conquer Haiti, and from there to France and Tripoli. The love interest results when a susceptible young marine lawyer becomes enamored with the portrait of a girl who is in Haiti. He finds her there and manages to take her away from the island during a bloody negro uprising. The story carries them through spirited engagements with the French; capture by Barbary pirates, and slavery in Tripoli.

★
FRONTIER ON THE POTOMAC by Jonathan Daniels.
Jonathan Daniels, as the son of

a cabinet member in the Wilson Administration and as Press Secretary to Franklin D. Roosevelt, has had ample opportunity to learn Washington and Washington personalities from the inside out. In his effort to depict the national capitol and the workings of the powers that be, he has turned out one of the juiciest and most entertaining books ever written on the subject.

Here are accounts of conferences and parties, talk of politics and international affairs, all of them informal in the manner of their telling, all of them adding up to a graphic and revealing picture of American government in operation.

★ THROUGH RUSSIA'S BACK DOOR

by Richard E. Lauterback
A considered evaluation of the reasons for the seemingly unbridgeable gap between the Soviets and ourselves. The far reaches of Siberia are even more of a mystery to Americans than European Russia, and Mr. Lauterback, Correspondent for Life, is the first "outsider" to have an "uncensored" look at postwar conditions of the Hidden Empire east of the Urals. The author traveled from Vladivostok across the entire length of the Soviet Union, and this is his report on this vigorous land.

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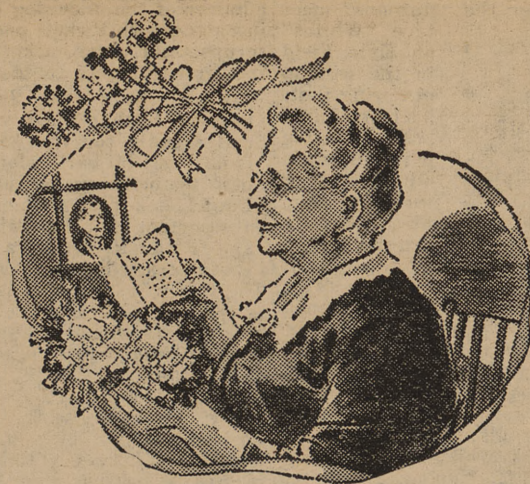
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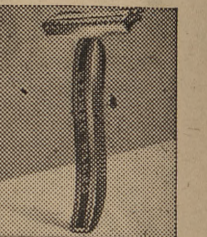
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