

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1947

## As A Man Thinketh...

"Most doctors," the radio blares, trying to sell something or other (and the radio isn't peddling stethoscopes); "seven out of ten Hollywood stars" drink or smoke or wash their faces with such-and-such; "your dentist uses whatnot" (we asked ours, and he didn't). When is most? Seven out of ten is a clear-cut ratio, but how many tens were consulted, and who determines what a Hollywood star is? Don't doctors ever raise a voice in protest against the calculated exploitation of an entire profession? Are they always going to take it, like their patients, lying down?

Oh, people say tolerantly (precise proportion of people not available, but too big), you have to expect that sort of thing in a radio commercial—you've read "The Hucksters," haven't you? Oh, yes, "everybody" has read "The Hucksters." Wasn't that the book in which Mr. Wakeman planted a land mine which he carefully ticketed "Soap Opera" and then tripped over it?

But do we have to expect "that sort of thing" from a reporter? "It is considered significant"—who considers it significant, and whose axe is he grinding? "It is understood"—who understands it, and what is his personal interest in it? "Washington seems to believe"—does that mean the whole population, plus Bethesda and Hyattsville, or, if not, what part of it, both statistically and politically? Washington seems to believe it wants the vote, anyway. Here's hoping it gets it. The city of Washington is made up, among others, of natives of the forty-eight states and of the District of Columbia.

This sort of "most of" and "believes" fuzziness reached an apothecary of ineptitude during the war. Every returning entertainer or correspondent or member of Congress or whatnot was asked what "the soldiers thought" about every conceivable subject. The honest answer, of course, would have been: "I don't know."

"I talked at most with a few hundred out of several million men, and that subject didn't come up to any great extent. There were too many other things for the soldiers to worry about (I didn't have to worry about them so much myself), such as whether the next meal would be cold or hot, or the chances of keeping on living." But too often—far

too often—the interviewee yielded to the glorious opportunity to become a spokesman, an interpreter, a know-it-all, and had the complete, pat answer to what "the soldiers thought." Invariably, of course, he simply told what HE thought. He had taken his opinions with him, and he had brought them back again.

The Army, rightly or wrongly, prohibited actual soldier polls by outsiders—probably rightly, if only for the reason that otherwise there would have been more voting than fighting. Incidentally, the Army did some highly worth-while polling on its own account, and for its own information, the results of which were not made public. Why not let them out now? In those figures only is there any accurate indication of what soldiers really thought. They thought, all right.

It seems equally bad reporting, to approximately 73.4 or so of us, to quote three or four individuals (including full names and addresses) with the implication that as John Doe thinks, so thinks the country, or the South, or an entire labor union.

And one should not ignore—rather, one should ignore—the speaker who has the effrontery to think for his audiences—"I know that most of my listeners will agree with me," or "The American business man appreciates too well."

There may be nothing particularly insidious in all this. And again there may be. The average intelligent listener or reader, one hopes (or do we statistically presume?), is capable of discounting, and does discount, at least the more flagrant numerical attributions and generalizations. Many of the generalizations are the product of sheer laziness, as much physical as intellectual. It is so much easier to write a think-piece, so much simpler to interpret "local opinion," or to lean back on that ole debbil Consensus, with out putting oneself to all the hard work of rounding up substantial and provable facts. The handout is partly (proportion undetermined) to blame. Time was when a reporter had to use his feet as well as his head; too often today the mimeograph machine makes it unnecessary for him to overexert either end.

Everyone has a right to his own opinions—and a right to no one else's.

—Saturday Review of Literature.

## 'Great Issues' at A. & M.?

This fall Dartmouth College will launch what is perhaps the most promising of many courses instituted in colleges and universities throughout the country since the end of the war. Known as the "Great Issues" course, it is simply an analysis of contemporary national and international problems.

The procedure to be used in presenting the study is simple and easily adaptable to any school in the United States. The three-hour course is divided into three logical steps:

First, the class is briefed on the problem for discussion by a qualified member of the faculty. This will take one hour.

Second, a prominent guest of the week will lecture on the subject selected by the members of the faculty in charge of the course.

Third, a one-hour "Socratic Dialogue" will be led by the president of the college, Dr. John Sloan Dickey. Students will tear apart the case presented by the speaker of the previous period, who will be present during the discussion. It will be debated, discussed, and digested by Dartmouth seniors.

Textbooks will be replaced by copies of "The New York Times" or the New York "Herald-Tribune." All students will supplement their lectures and discussion through journals and periodicals devoted to controversial matters. "Harper's," "The Atlantic," "Foreign Affairs," and the "Saturday Review of Literature" will provide the background material necessary for receiving full benefit from the course. A separate corner in the Dartmouth Library has been set aside for section meetings and individual conferences. Displays in this room will contain clippings from newspapers and periodicals all over the nation showing various editorial opinions from all sections of the country.

The course "Great Issues" is to be required of ALL Dartmouth senior students.

Dr. Dickey feels that three objectives will be fulfilled in a study of this type. Self-learning is evident as a primary aim; public-mindedness, which ties in with the former, is presented as a second major objective.

The last serves to present to the student the other curricula of Dartmouth—to allow a liberal arts student an insight on the engineering student, and vice-versa.

A question which immediately arises in our minds is: "Why can't A. & M. establish a course similar to that at Dartmouth?"

An understanding of vital question of the day is a matter of concern to all students. Engineers, agriculturists, liberal arts students—all should be awakened from their cocoon of indifference and "do-no-wrong" attitude. There is a definite place on this campus for a similar program.

The students of A. & M. must devote their attention, indulgence, and cooperation. The college itself owes its students and faculty the right to develop ideas, ideals, and "internationalized" thinking. It is high time that we all awake to those two facts.

No way could better justify these facts than by A. & M.'s pioneering in the Southwest what Dartmouth will attempt to do for New England!

## No Bargain, This!

Our own plum for ingenious advertising goes this month to the Ilex Theatre in Quitman, Georgia, for an insertion it ran in the Quitman Free Press when *Duel in the Sun* came to town. The ad follows:

"Monday-Tuesday—*Duel in the Sun* with Jennifer Jones, Joseph Cotten, Gregory Peck, Lionel Barrymore, and a cast of 2500. Filmed in Technicolor! One of the better pictures of the year and the producers are demanding that we charge 75¢ matinee and \$1.20 evening. We have shown as good and better pictures for 30¢, and do not believe this picture to be worth the above scale. However, we have no control over it. And we believe that if the national gross at this scale is as large as seems possible you will pay \$1.20 to see all good pictures in the future. In other words we don't blame you if you stay home."

—TIDE

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published tri-weekly and circulated on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons, except during the summer when it is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (444) or at the editorial office, Room 5, Administration Building. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 3, Administration Building.

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## Possible GI Buying Spree

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.

Veterans' purchasing power may be boosted by a cool two billion dollars in the next couple of months. The only impetus necessary is the go-ahead from Congress, okaying the cashing-in of terminal-leave bonds. As things now stand, terminal-leave bonds are not due until five years after their issue date. For the majority, the maturity date will be in 1951.

These bonds average about \$200 each and if all veterans take cash for them, a source of two billion must be found. Some dollars can come out of cash on hand; others would have to be borrowed. Neither the budget nor the national debt will be greatly affected because funds for them have been included in national-debt totals and in budget calculations.

Some of the possible effects of cashing-in these bonds might be:

TO SERVE AS A CATALYTIC AGENT TO INFLATION. Veterans will probably use this new purchasing power to bid for scarce goods, thus adding pressure on prices and pushing the level of consumption higher.

TO CAUSE A DEFINITE RISE IN THE SALES OF NON-DURABLE CONSUMER'S GOODS. Many veterans are just beginning to establish and equip house holds—two century notes would help immeasurably.

TO HAVE LITTLE AFFECT ON COSTLY DURABLE GOODS. Individual payments will be small, therefore purchases of automobiles, washing machines, refrigerators, and the like will not be increased to any extent.

THE TREASURER MIGHT HAVE SOME MONEY. It can bor-

## Freedom Train To Begin Year Tour Of U. S. in Sept.

The "Freedom Train," sponsored by the Department of Justice to display to the American public hundreds of historic documents will begin its year long tour of the United States, September 17, when its departure from Philadelphia, Pa., will high point the Constitution Day celebration in the Cradle of American Liberty.

An entire car will be devoted to the Bill of Rights, which will have as its high point the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. On display will be historical documents which have figured in the development and protection of that freedom through the years. Among these documents are Thomas Jefferson's letter to Thomas Seymour, Feb. 11, 1807, Benjamin Franklin's editorial on John Peter Zenger, Nov. 10-17, 1737, Thomas Jefferson's letter to Edward Carrington, Jan. 16, 1787, and John Milton's *Areopagitica* London, 1644.

These and many other historical documents of interest will be displayed in more than 200 American cities and towns in which the train will visit during the course of the tour.

One of the world's greatest man-made channels—the 156-mile Friant-Kern Irrigation canal—which will extend from Friant Dam to Bakersfield, California, is now under construction by the Bureau of Reclamation between Friant Dam and the Kaweah River—a distance of 75 miles.

## Sir-Doug Must Produce or Go

By Frank W. Moore, Jr.

If Sir-Doug Burk Pride Gerb-Col O Watson proves himself, the Bureau of Dairy Industry wants him back; if not, A&M will have to keep and feed him.

Sir-Doug, a Holstein bull with herd registry number 878,987, was sent to the college from New York by the Bureau of Dairy Industry during the latter part of June to be tried and proven.

There are three proved sires on each side of his family, his own sire, Sir Douglas Buttercup Hark 660575, being one of them.

Dr. L. W. Rupel, head of the Department of Dairy Husbandry, said that "although 878,987 hasn't been officially classified that he would guess him to be a high Good Plus or a Very Good bull."

Sir-Doug Burk Pride Gerb-Col Watson will be used on the college herd, and in the artificial insemination service being carried on by the college. If he is proven, the Bureau of Dairy Industry will more than likely take him back to use in its own breeding program.

row money at a much lower interest rate than the 2.5 per cent that the G. I. bonds carry.

TAXPAYERS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED DIRECTLY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. This expenditure has already been accounted for.

It is hoped that not as many veterans will be forced to cash bonds because of unemployment as were in 1936. In view of the 1936 experience it might be wise for those who are urging the immediate redemption of their terminal-leave bonds to stop and consider the possibility of a depression in 1951 and thereafter, just when that money would be a life-saver.

President Truman is reported to be just as much opposed to the move as he was last year. However, it is quite possible that Mr. Truman's veto could be overridden—if in doubt, ask any labor leader.

## PALACE

BRYAN, TEXAS  
 PREVIEW SATURDAY NIGHT, SUN., MON., and TUESDAY

GENE KELLY  
 — In —  
 "LIVING IN A BIG WAY"

COMING—TUES., WED., THURS., FRI., and SATURDAY

GREGORY PECK  
 — In —  
 "THE YEARLING"

## QUEEN

SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY  
 GENE AUTRY  
 — In —

"SIOUX CITY SUE"  
 WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

REX HARRISON  
 — In —  
 "NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN"

## CAMPUS

PROPERLY AIR CONDITIONED!

Box Office Open 1:00 p.m. Phone 4-1181

She's got only 24 hours to win her hubby back!

**Suddenly It's Spring**  
 A Paramount Picture starring Paulette Goddard and Fred MacMurray  
 with Mitchell Gay - John White  
 and Mitchell Lewis photos

PLAYS 2 DAYS!  
 Friday-Saturday

— Plus —  
 Merrie Melodies  
 Cartoon and Latest News

SATURDAY PREVIEW—11:00 p. m.  
 Also Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

**District Attorney**  
 O'KEEFE - MENDOU  
 CHAPMAN - O'SHEA

## ME Shops Receive New Transformers

The Mechanical Engineering Shops have just received three 100 KVA electrical transformers which will double the load carrying capacity in the shops, according to C. W. Crawford, head of the department. These transformers were necessitated by the recent acquisition of government surplus machine tools which have been added to the shops.

Also, a bus duct is being installed in both the standard and the production machine shops. This work should be completed in time for the opening of the fall semester.

## German Jet Plane Remains With MEs

According to C. W. Crawford, head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, the German Junker jet airplane engine which was loaned to the college by the War Department is to remain through the next school year.

Professor C. W. Files and five mechanical engineering seniors already made an extensive study of this engine during the past semester. Under Files' direction another group will make further study of the engine with suggestions for improvements in both design and construction.

## GUION HALL THEATER

FRIDAY and SATURDAY,

DOUBLE FEATURE

Carole LANDIS · Allyn JOSLYN  
 IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A DOG

BEAUTIFUL GIRL BURIED ALIVE!  
 BORIS Karloff  
 THE ISLE OF THE DEAD  
 — ELLEN DREW MARC CRAMER

SUNDAY and MONDAY

it's JACK CARSON  
 With his very own brand of happy romance  
 KISSING HIS WAY INTO TROUBLE... AND KIDDING HIS WAY OUT AGAIN!!!  
 ROBERT HUTTON  
 MARTHA VICKERS  
 JANIS PAIGE  
**LOVE AND LEARN**  
 WARNER PICTURE  
 It's a whopping big lesson in love—and a whopping big lesson in romance!  
 FREDERICK de CORDOVA

COMING: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

THREE GIRLS IN A BILL  
 All in TECHNICOLOR  
 20¢