

Battalion EDITORIALS

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1948

The Too, Too Narrow Path . . .

A. & M. has been criticized one way or another ever since the college was established. Sometimes the criticism comes from outside, sometimes from inside. Much of such comment is heard today for forgotten tomorrow.

But one criticism sticks. We can't get away from it. It is heard from inside and outside. That is criticism of the narrow course of instruction offered here in technical courses. As 90% of A. & M.'s graduates in the past ten years have received degrees in technical courses, that means just about all of us are affected by the criticism.

Students who apply themselves strenuously to a four-year engineering course find very few hours in their curricula devoted to the study of liberal subjects. Whatever desire they have to broaden themselves through extra-curricular work and outside reading is held in check by the amount of study required to keep up with their prescribed technical courses.

This situation coupled with the type of student life found at A. & M. has tended to produce a rather narrow and somewhat limited individual upon graduation.

As emphasized by this time of world political stress, the greatest asset a nation can possess is a wide-awake citizenry capable of thinking through the vast amount of propaganda thrust upon them and arriving at a reasonable true concept of current happenings. Otherwise the great majority of the populace serve merely as pawns in the world's play for power, swayed first in one direction and then another by the instruments of mass psychology.

One is led at times to wonder if the average Aggie upon graduation is capable to any extent of liberal thought? Certainly not to the degree of reasoning his way through most of the complex problems of today's "one world."

Upon what does the Aggie base his beliefs, his political and social convictions? He must fall back upon snap-judgments and prejudice, for he has learned no facts at A. & M. that would help him evaluate problems of mankind in the scientific way that he

judges stresses of buildings or rations for cattle.

If this is true, do the majority of A. & M. graduates have a clear claim to being considered educated men? Not according to President Truman's commission on higher education. This report condemns most American colleges as too narrow. Where does that put us, in a school more narrow than most?

The larger part of the blame for the existence of this condition lies not with the administration, not with the department heads, but with the students themselves, who refuse to recognize the glaring deficiency in their educational program.

The problem of deciding what courses to offer and what not to offer in the curricula for a certain degree has haunted the dreams of many department heads who recognize the inadequacy of a degree backed solely by purely technical courses. The only answer to the enigma entails the substitution of five-year technical courses in place of the older standard four-year courses. Though this has been tried in several departments, students have shunned the plan in favor of the older and "quicker" four-year system.

Until such a time as students become aware of the value of a liberal education coupled with the technical training they receive now, it seems that A. & M. must continue to produce graduates who can claim little prowess as "thinkers other than the ability to wield a slide rule or perhaps judge prize cattle.

Where does such narrow education lead? The Fort Worth Star Telegram remarks, in an editorial:

"Through the elimination of general or liberal education under the regime of Hitler, a generation of Germans was reduced to the status of robots, skilled in their pursuits but mere pawns in the hands of their destroyers. Russia today is another striking instance, where the denial of intellectual freedom and a broad education lowers the productive efficiency of the people. Specialization, thus, can undo its own purpose."

Should We Re-time Finals? . . .

From the Oklahoma Daily News comes an intriguing plan which is most timely. Commenting on the confusion resulting from students returning from the Christmas holidays only to be confronted with final examinations, the Oklahoma college paper suggests a remedy. Have the finals during the week preceding the holidays with enrollment for the second semester beginning immediately after the holidays.

The possible improvement in grades and peace of mind should make the plan worthy of consideration by both students and faculty. By avoiding the two-week Christmas break in the semester, the material would be fresh in the student's mind for the exam. With his exams finished the weary student would have no term papers to write over his yuletide holidays, no boning for exams by the

light of a Christmas tree, and none of the worry which oncoming exams can bring to mar his festivities. The semester could as easily start the first of September, making up for the time cut off from what is now the post-Christmas period.

The Oklahoma editor concludes that the plan would have some merit for the pros as well as the students since there would be no mad assembling and preparation of the material for finals.

The plan not only makes a great deal of sense, but seems to be quite feasible as well. While in the midst of the oncoming weeks rush, pause for a moment from your attempt to recall everything you forgot over Christmas and think about relocating the semesters.

Annual Legislature Needed . . .

A minor wrangle which has been stewing between Governor Jester and the supporters of several new appropriation bills is pointing up a question which has been ignored for some time. Are Texas legislative problems sufficiently numerous and complex to merit an annual session of our state's lawmakers, rather than their present every-other-year meetings?

The sponsors of bills involving establishment of a State University Medical Branch, a Cancer-Pellegra research hospital, a soil conservation program, and several other projects are lobbying consistently for a special session of the 50th Legislature. The governor is opposing a special session with equal vigor.

There seem to be several reasons why we should have a regular annual legislative session. One good argument was brought out in the news columns recently when the state penitentiary system ran out of money for food purchases right in the middle of a period when the legislative chambers were empty. Just as the convicts were beginning to tighten their belts and look hungrily at each other someone conceived the idea of

shifting some funds from an auto license appropriation into the prison larder kitty. Although this move staved off starvation for the moment, the inmates and quite a few voters are beginning to wonder if such shenanigans make for efficient government.

The governor brought out another interesting point in his own argument against the backers of an old age pension amendment. At the present time it is illegal to amend the constitution in a special session, and it is even impossible to vote on certain bills during the called periods. If an emergency requiring an amendment were to arise just after the regular session, it would be technically impossible to put the amendment through, even though a special session were called.

These are only specific instances from a large group of such legal bottlenecks. Texas has expanded greatly in population and business volume over the past few years. Our present house and legislature can not keep pace with the new demands forced on them by this expansion. The legislators no longer arrive in Austin by Wells Fargo Stage. Should they work on an equally outmoded biennial schedule?

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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SUDS IN YOUR EYE



BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

In the 'Struggle for Germany' Lies Key to Peace in Europe

By MRS. WILNORA BARTON
Readers' Advisor

STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY by Russell Hill Harper, 1947.

Behind the confusing headlines, behind the laborious negotiations of the statesmen, lies Germany, defeated but still the key to peace in Europe. To every one of us, as to the statesmen, Germany is a challenge and a series of troubling questions. Nowhere have these questions been answered more directly than in this book by Russell Hill, outstanding correspondent of The New York Herald Tribune.

At the outset, STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY highlights the basic conflict between Russia and the western powers which threatens to turn Germany into a battleground. The differing policies and purposes of Russia, Britain, France and the United States are shown in action as they have developed since the fall of Berlin. The mystery of Germany today is attacked with a rich arsenal of anecdotes and on-the-spot information which etches a

vivid picture of how the Germans are living and thinking.

★
SOVIET FOR EASTERN POLICY 1931-1945. By Harriet L. Moore. Princeton University Press.

Here is a short but remarkable inclusive narrative account of the development of Soviet Far Eastern policy in the past decade and a half, with emphasis on Russian relations with Japan and China. The material is drawn largely from Russian sources; little of it has appeared in English before.

Miss Moore's purpose has been to give the American reader a picture of how the war in the Pacific looked to the Soviet people. To that end she has included in an extensive appendix the full text of key diplomatic documents and Soviet statements at critical moments in recent far Eastern history. This is a valuable addition to the literature of Soviet Russia and the Far East. Those who want a brief summary and those who want source material will find this book useful in further studies.

On The Screen . . .

Hurry, Step Right Up to See 'Nightmare Alley'—Campus

By DAVE SELIGMAN

NIGHTMARE ALLEY (Campus FS). Attention all Aggies over 21! This picture is recommended for adult entertainment. Starring Joan Blondell and Tyrone, NA portrays the life surrounding cheap side-shows.

Contrasting with the idealist hero role in "The Razor's Edge," Power's part in this picture is the unprincipled carnival Barker. The gist of the plot is his causing the death of a drunken mentalist after Power has learned his tricks. When he marries a showgirl performer, the team rises to fame as nightclub headliners. But he is turned into a beautiful psychologist. In the supporting roles are Coleen Gray and Helen Walker. This film boasts a somewhat new

plot and is better than average entertainment.

★
PARTNERS IN TIME (Guion, FS). Lina and Abner who gained and kept their fame on the radio go out of their medium in attempting to make film history. It's good for a few laughs and has special appeal for the "homey" folks.

THE DEVIL ON WHEELS (Guion, FS) double feature. Hot-rod drivers, young kids who race around in jalopies take a lambasting in this picture, but it doesn't make much of a movie. Trying to put forth a moral, the producers neglect the picture and consequently a sad melodrama with an injection of romance evolves.

RIFF RAFF (Queen, ThFS). Mood, mystery, and melodrama are the supporting elements of this story of the cops-and-robbers type. It's the one about a hard-boiled know-it-all adventure—this time in Panama—whose services are available to anyone for a price. Pat O'Brien plays a not too convincing role, surrendering acting honor to Anne Jeffries and the supporting cast.

Starting slow because of trying to build up mood, the film gathers momentum and ends as prime action stuff. Fans, don't expect too much and you will enjoy this.

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Today Thur Saturday

"It Had to Be You"

with GINGER ROGERS CORNEL WILDE

GUION HALL

TODAY & THURSDAY



EXTRA! PATHE NEWS PRESENTS ROSE BOWL FILMED IN COLOR! also Cotton Bowl . . . Sugar Bowl . . . Orange Bowl!

also featurette, "WHISTLE IN THE NIGHT"

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Will 'Women on the Bench' Solve Problem Of Victoryless West Coast Football Teams?

They've hauled out the crying towel in mass on the Pacific Coast and, between sons, a few mumbled sentences about F.B.M. can be heard flowing across the nation with California datelines.

F.B.M. is, of course, "Football Before Michigan," and has reference to Michigan's 49-0 humiliation of Southern California in the Rose Bowl. The loss to Michigan, third in a row by heavy scores in Rose Bowl games, has just about sealed the doom of the West Coast football supremacy.

Hence the crying towels, a development which is not particularly surprising to the followers of the Southwest Conference, who can remember quite a string of victories by SWC teams over the Pacific Coast.

It looks like the Californians are going to have to either (1) Hire new and better press agents (2) Employ Hollywood Female Stars to sit on the bench and distract players from Texas Colleges, who always have had an eye (it says here) for the fairer sex or (and this is the most doubtful) (3) produce better football teams.

Ah well, California still claims Texas bred Mary Martin, Ann Sheridan and Linda Darnell—they can't have everything.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

The age of science has apparently put to the lie the old proverb about "youth having its way."

The burglar alarm at an East Baltimore Candy Factory rang one night recently. Four policemen surrounded the building, then entered cautiously.

They found a 12-year-old boy, his mouth stuffed with candy bars. Using the ring around his mouth as "prima facie evidence," they booked him for juvenile authorities.

EXIT, FREE SPEECH

Elevator operators in the Los Angeles City Hall have been ordered to adhere strictly to a policy of calling floors by their numbers only.

Building superintendent Ralph Hoffman said the instructions were issued after he received reports that some operators were, with some pessimism, calling out "war department" for the floor where divorce courts are located, "flatfoot alley" for the police headquarters floor, "morgue" for the probate courts floor and "Ball and Chain" for the city attorney's criminal division.

HUNTERS HUNT HOUNDS

The newly organized United Steel and Wire Company fox hunting club turned its attention Thursday from hunting foxes to hunting hounds.

The 60 members bought two hounds, valued at \$200 and noted for their fox-hunting ability. Tuesday they went a hunting for the first time. They sighted a fox and the baying hounds took off "like they were jet-propelled," according to club president Oliver Parlin.

The dogs haven't been seen since. Neither has the fox.

20 Students Visit Ranch Sunday

Twenty A. & M. students accompanied by Bill Warren of the animal husbandry department made a trip to Magnolia Sunday to visit the ranch of Lester Goodson, quarter horse breeder.

Four classes of quarter horses were judged and discussed by the students at the ranch, Warren reported.

Fifteen of the 20 students making the trip are prospective members of the junior livestock judging team. The team will compete in the collegiate division of the livestock judging contest at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show at Fort Worth January 30.

Twenty six men tried out for the team December 7, and the field was thinned to 15 following the holidays, Warren said. Final selection will be made by Warren, team coach, and assistant A. C. Sears, veterinary medicine student.

Warren reported that other trips are planned to give the students an opportunity to see more stock of all classes and breeds in preparation for the Fort Worth contest.

QUEEN

LAST DAY

"Pirates of Monterrey"

THURSDAY — FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

"Riff Raff"

with Pat O'Brien

GUION HALL

COMING —

SUNDAY — MONDAY — TUESDAY

WARNER BROS. PRESENT
Clarence Dune
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DUNNE POWELL
ELIZABETH TAYLOR
EDMUND GWENN — ZASU PITTS
Directed by OTTO PREMINGER
From Oscar Wilde's Stage Production • Music by Max Steiner • Screen Play by Donald Ogden Stewart
HOWARD LINDSAF & RUSSEL CROUSE



Okay, you dums, you've got your women, now tell me why we're losing by four touchdowns!!

CLEAN SWEEP

When Frank F. Collins lifted the receiver of his telephone here recently, it cost \$1,200.

Someone at the other end of the wire told him that a forger was attempting to cash a check against him at an appliance store. Collins, manager of the Anderson Riley Estate Office, hung up, sped toward the store.

There, nobody knew of such a call, such a forger, or such a check. When Collins returned to the office he found the safe door open. Gone were bonds valued at \$1,900, and \$200 in cash.

INVITATION

Ben Caplan of Philadelphia is part owner of a company that manufactures automobile burglar alarms. The other day, Ben took the burglar alarm off his own car to lend it to a friend and— Ben is using taxicabs temporarily.

FOOD GROUP TO MEET

The College Station Women's Food Group will meet Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the home of Mrs. R. D. Lewis, 410 Throckmorton.

Campus

Opens 1:00 p.m. 4-11:30

Today — Last Day

This Is A

1st Run Feature

SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN HUSBAND!

On a Date with Danger and Love!

THE DEVIL ON WHEELS

MOREEN NASH DARRYL HICKMAN JANI FORD JAMES CARROLL

Presented by Producers Releasing Corp.

and

See How They Panicked Pine Ridge! Forty years Ago!

More fun than a strawberry festival on foot!

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Produced by B.F. BOYD • Directed by WILLIAM WAXES

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