

# Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1949

## A Gesture of Sympathy and Good Will . . .

Tragic news clicked across the wires Saturday afternoon.

A report from Norman, Oklahoma, told of an early morning fire which brought death and terror throughout a two-story men's dormitory housing 349 University of Oklahoma students.

Three bodies had been recovered from the still smoldering ruins, hours after the frame building burned to the ground with a swiftness that gave occupants little time to save anything but their lives.

More than a score of the survivors were injured and burned, many of them hurt as they leaped out of windows. Most of those who escaped were still in pajamas and shorts.

The dorm, housing only unmarried men, had no chance against the fire. It sprang up suddenly and consumed everything in its way within 30 to 40 minutes. Its speed was so great that firemen gave it up as hopeless and concentrated on keeping the blaze from spreading.

After learning of the tragedy, Keith

Allsup, president of the Student Senate, sent the following telegram addressed to the presiding official of the Oklahoma University student senate:

"We here at A&M wish to express our deepest regrets for your tragic fire and the death of three of your students. If there is any way in which we can help you, please feel free to call on us."

Gestures such as this telegram are obviously the foundations upon which the firmest relations between schools are established. Better relations between schools involve an exchange of ideas, policies, and problems which, in turn, provide for each school involved a broader outlook of its own problems as well as a broader knowledge of how to cope with them.

If ever in the future some such tragedy should befall A&M, an offer of aid from any school, would be infinitely appreciated and possibly would lift a little weight of sorrow off our shoulders.

We are sure Allsup's extension of sympathy was equally well received and appreciated by the University of Oklahoma.

## Eight Years Ago, Tiny Dots in the Sky . . .

Tiny dots in the sky over the mountains west of Pearl Harbor were hardly noticed on a Sunday morning eight years ago today. The dots were undoubtedly aircraft, 50 to 150 of them. But Hawaii's skies had been bespeckled by many aircraft in late 1941.

The dots drew closer, an outpost reported, "Numerous aircraft approaching." No one was concerned; it was all routine.

From the air, Honolulu sprawled to the right front. Ahead was the mouth to Pearl Harbor. Hickam Field's runways and barracks and hangars were between the harbor and Honolulu. Beyond were the oil tanks for the sleeping American Pacific Fleet anchored in the harbor.

All was perfect for the approaching aircraft—fighters, light bombers, torpedo bombers. Their red Rising Sun's glittered on their wing tips.

An order was barked over the planes' radios, the tight formation loosened, then exploded with each diving below for a pre-planned target.

In a moment the attack was on, and the United States was fighting World War II. Pearl Harbor was ablaze with

fire gutted warships and burning oil stores.

Like a man clubbed on the head while asleep, American forces rose from their beds, stunned and terrified — Confusion and disorder, bombs and strafing, noise and dead and wounded.

And in America citizens were fighting mad. They cursed the Japanese nation, and vowed, "We'll whip her in three weeks."

But three weeks turned into almost four years before Japan capitulated. We counted American dead and wounded on nearly every island in the Pacific. We blocked three and four years out of millions of men's lives. And we harnessed future generations to a war debt that bought this nation victory.

This date on our calendars claims no special significance. There are no great parades, no bands playing, no eloquent speeches. There are no strong patriotic sentiments attached to it.

December 7 is just another day now, a day of petty remembrances to many people.

Have you forgotten so soon?

## In Passing . . .

Any Questions? In Manhattan, the magazine *Woman's Life* listed some rules for kissing: 1) "do it on the quiet and do not tempt others," 2) "plenty of fresh air . . . is a prime necessity," 3) "at a

party where (kissing games) are played, be sure to gargle frequently," 4) "if you feel 'all in' after kissing or being kissed take a hot mustard foot bath . . ."—Time.

Building contractors have their troubles, not the least of which is the poor quality of lumber frequently offered to them. A despairing contractor recently dispatched this telegram to the mill that had sent him a carload of lumber: "Knot holes received, please send the knots."

allowed a claim of \$176 for medical expenses to Actor Mell Turner, who said that during a love scene he misjudged the distance, broke his nose on the leading lady's forehead.—Time.

Love is like an onion  
You taste it with delight,  
And when it's gone you wonder  
Whatever made you bite.

Occupational Hazard. In Richmond the Virginia State Industrial Commission

## The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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## KEEPING HIS FOOT IN



## Letters To The Editor

(All letters to the editor which are signed by a student or employee of the college and which do not contain obscene or libelous material will be published. Persons wishing to have their names withheld from publication may request such action and these names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any persons other than the editors.)

FROM T U

Editor, The Battalion:

Your open letter to the TU football squad was without a doubt well taken; however it seems to me that it served no purpose than to serve as a threat to our team and to develop Aggie spirit. If this is the means you must use to develop spirit in your school, I think that you would be much better off without it.

I cannot understand how you intend to control this spirit during the game. If your team, or anyone's team, goes into the game with this "spirit", it is inevitable, that as some excitable point of the game it will break loose from them and cause an incident similar to that which took place on the field this year.

Spirit is a fine thing, and I have always admired A&M's spirit greatly; however, I think that spirit such as this can lead only to one end, namely the discontinuance of the UT-A&M football encounters. If this happens, one of the teams would have to be dropped from the Southwest Conference. Which one? No one knows, and I am sure that no one wants this to happen. It is for this reason that I sincerely hope that any person in our university or yours who share this "spirit"

## Official Notice

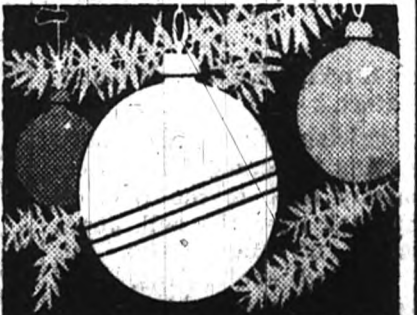
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT  
December 8, 1949  
Several vacancies exist in the staff of student assistants in Physics Department Laboratories. Men who were proficient in sophomore physics or who have some knowledge of photography are needed at various periods throughout the week. Compensation is \$4.00 per hour for new students. Applicants kindly come to the office of the Physics Department.

G. POTTER,  
Head, Physics Department

SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS  
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

All second and third year students in the School of Veterinary Medicine are required to attend the meeting on "The Bureau of Animal Industry Trainee Program" from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. on Tuesday, December 13th, in the amphitheatre of the Veterinary Hospital.

Scheduled classes for these students will be dismissed for this hour.  
(Signed) I. B. BOUGHTON, Dean  
School of Veterinary Medicine



16 Shopping Days till Christmas

Shop today in the  
ADVERTISING  
COLUMNS

The Battalion

"Your Guide to  
Better Values"

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IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Convenient Terms

BRYAN BUSINESS MACHINE  
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209 N. Main Street

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## Ode To Lauren's Hubby, Or Intimations of Senility

BY PERCY BYSSHE GOLLOB

O Bogart, Humphrey, Lauren's man,  
Thy face is wrinkled, thy complexion wan.  
Thine eyes encircled with rings so black,  
Thy voice reminiscent of nicotine hack.  
Alas! Old Age hath thee overtaken,  
So why portray "the lover," 'tis an action mistaken.  
Fair Humphrey, henceforth regard person romancing a cardinal sin,  
Leave such doings to suave Errol Flynn.

Several years back, Warner Brothers parlayed a sentimental story and Schnitzky song entitled "As Time Goes By" into a box-office gold mine which went by the name of "Casablanca."

A natural as far as public appeal goes, that tautly paced, climactically paced film left not an emotion unused as it jerked tears, provoked laughter, and generated suspense.

And Director Raoul Walsh did exceptionally well in exploiting the talents of his star-studded cast which included Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Sydney Greenstreet,

Peter Lorre, and the late Conrad Veidt.

To Bogart was handed the once-in-a-lifetime role of "Rick" — Cross sentimental with a cynical shell, professional soldier, night-club owner, rugged individualist—a part perfectly attuned to his tough-guy enunciation and mein.

Now, some six years later (why the delay we'll never know), comes "Tokyo Joe" a biting and uproarious parody on the Warner Brothers classic, made by Columbia starring none other than Hairbreadth Humphrey himself, and now showing at the Campus.

Columbia scripters have been scrupulously careful to leave the original "Casablanca" plot intact, making only a few changes here and there for comic effect. Bogart, in a subtle imitation of his Casablanca "Rick", again wears his familiar trench coat and slouch hat. Again he is the owner of a night-club. Again his only love is married to another man, a respectable, refined chap. Again a sentimental tune—this time, "These Foolish Things" which he associates with his One And Only Florence Marly brings tears to his eyes, and provides the film's background music.

Compliments should be extended to the entire cast for their ability to keep a straight face reciting the hilarious lines from this pungent comedy. Especially should the angular Miss Marly be congratulated. She reflected not the slightest smile when Grandfather Humphrey held her

in his doddering arms and muttered through bared teeth, "Baby, I love ya!"

Bogart is a knock-out in this, his first chance at displaying his comic talents. Rhys Williams, Jerome Courtland, and Sessue Hayakawa are also around to add to the general mirth.

Thursday and Friday evenings' Guion Hall audiences will be treated to the Aggie Players' first offering of the year, "R. U. R."

If the gallons of blood, sweat, and cokes expended by director George Dillavou and his cast in their preparation is in any way indicative of the quality of the production, "R. U. R." should be well worth any audience's while.

SKYWAY  
DRIVE-IN THEATRE  
LAST DAY  
"THE LIFE OF RILEY"  
— Starring —  
William Bendix  
TONITE —  
Lucky License Nite

## Group Says War Over

Washington—(AP)—The District of Columbia Zoning Commission has decided the war is over. It has rescinded a wartime order permitting homeowners outside designated rooming house areas to take in more than two roomers to help relieve the housing pinch.

Campus  
TODAY thru SAT.  
FIRST RUN  
—Features Start—  
1:40 - 3:45 - 5:50 - 7:55 - 10:00

F. M. Carpenter '50

BOGART AT HIS DEADLIEST!  
HUMPHREY BOGART  
IN  
Tokyo Joe  
ALEXANDER KURSA, FLORENCE MARLY  
PLUS: CARTOON — NEWS  
SMU-Notre Dame Game

Guion Hall  
LAST DAY

OUTPOST  
"MOROCCO"  
starring  
GEORGE RAFT  
AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS  
Selected Here United Artists  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

WILD...RUGGED  
ADVENTURE!  
ARCTIC  
MANHUNT  
with MIKE CONRAD  
CAROL THURSTON  
WALLY GASSER  
A UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

A Merry Xmas With  
PORTRAITS  
HEY YOU ! ! !  
YOU STILL HAVE  
TIME TO GET THAT  
PICTURE MADE FOR  
CHRISTMAS.  
Don't wait too late  
. . . do it now!  
She'll be pleased  
with a picture from—  
A&M PHOTO  
SHOP  
North Gate College

PALACE  
Bryan 2-8879

TODAY thru SATURDAY  
NOT THIS GRANT  
SHELL QUITTER ONLY MAN'S DEFENSE!  
THIS ONE!  
BALL WITH HOLDEN  
Miss GRANT  
TAKES  
RICHMOND  
Janis CARTER  
James GLEASON

The  
Aggie Players Present  
R. U. R.

The amazing story of Mechanical Men!  
Meet Willie the Robot. He'll thrill you!  
Scare you! Shock you! Don't miss  
R. U. R.  
Thursday and Friday Nights  
December 8 and 9  
8: p.m.  
Guion Hall — College  
Admission—25c for everyone  
DON'T MISS IT!

This advertisement compliments . . .  
THE EXCHANGE STORE  
"Serving Texas Aggies"  
—Two Stores—  
A & M Annex Main Campus

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American  
DIAL  
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