

THE OBJECTION

Through a survey of typical A. & M. instructors, we have been able to learn that the only objection most of them have to Dead Week is that it did not work in the past. Now if a means of preventing its being used wrongly if it is re-adopted can be found, practically everyone could, quite logically, receive it favorably.

And, we believe, there is a way to enforce it. First of all, however, let us clear up a point which may still be distressing students who have never gone through Dead Week.

Dear Week as The Battalion is asking for it is no more nor less than the week during finals minus the customary major quizzes, term reports and other similar matters. In other words, classroom activities would go on as usual, but with the restriction that only one day's work might be assigned and that quizzes and reports covering more than one day's assignment would be banned.

Many major colleges and universities follow this plan and find its operation successful.

If classroom attendance is enforced, then the old trouble of taking the week off to go home could not crop out.

Our Dead Week plan would allow for conscientious review of a course in order to give students the proper perspective. It would be enforced by having compulsory class attendance during that week just as we already have it in ordinary times.

This week we received a letter for Student Forum from two seniors who are opposing our plan and are requesting another—that of allowing final examinations ten days instead of the customary six.

While the plan has some good points, it is incapable of being put into operation without the addition of more scholastic days to the college calendar. A national organization of which A. & M. is a member requires a certain number of days to be spent in classroom work, and we always just barely skim over the minimum. Consequently, the plan they submitted is impractical.

We sincerely urge the faculty to give careful thought to passing regulations of activities in the week prior to finals similar to the ones listed above, namely, (1) not allowing quizzes during the week except those to cover one day's ordinary assignment, (2) not allowing term reports to fall due during the week, and (3) requesting instructors to devote the week to giving students better understandings and better perspectives of the courses.

REFUGEE AID

The Bryan Amusement Company and Mrs. Morris Schulman, its manager, are to be commended for their philanthropic act in cooperating with some 130 other theaters of Texas to present benefit performances for the aid of the unfortunate refugees from Hitler's tyrannical dictatorship in Germany.

Last Wednesday afternoon and night all three Bryan theaters—the Palace, the Queen, and the New Dixie—presented benefit shows. The gross receipts for the entire day—not even deducting ordinary operating expenses—were turned over to the cause of assisting the refugees.

The distribution committee which is aiding the unfortunates is an international organization which is functioning for relief refugees, regardless of creed.

The Battalion wishes to express the appreciation of all thinking people to Mrs. Schulman and her company for their fine work in aiding this worthy cause.

Four scholarship awards by the United Air Lines are being offered by the Boeing School of Aeronautics, Oakland, California to undergraduates in U. S. and Canadian colleges.

Industrial plants of Kansas furnish field-laboratories for seniors in the department of chemical engineering at K. U.

THE BATTALION

Entered as second class matter at the post office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress on March 3, 1929.

Subscription rates, \$2.00 per year. Advertising rates upon request.

Office in Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone College 8. Office open from 11 a. m. until 4 p. m. daily.

Represented for national advertising by National Advertising Service, Inc., 420 Madison Ave., New York City.

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Student Forum:  
ON EXAM WEEK

Is the declaration of a dead week prior to final examinations at A. & M. a good idea? As a worthy administrative ideal—yes, it is; as an acceptable theory—yes again; but as a practical plan satisfactorily applicable to a modern college, the "dead week" idea is entirely valueless.

It is the opinion of a large number of prominent A. & M. students and of a majority of the faculty that "dead week" proved itself impractical when it was received and treated by the majority of students as an extension of the Christmas holidays than as a period of intensive study and review for final examinations. It is regrettable, but nevertheless true, that the modern students of A. & M. are no more industrious and studious than those of yesterday. That such a thing is true is definitely indicated by the large number of failures this year.

Whether or not a large number of student favor the institution of "dead week" can hardly be accepted as a determining factor. Too many of us are inclined to be hypocritical, thoroughly convincing ourselves that we will take full advantage of the opportunity offered by dead week, but in reality taking none. Such a statement is not to be construed as being in any sense an accusation but rather is to be recognized as a sensible analysis of the situation as it actually exists. Thoughtful students will recognize it as such.

Undoubtedly the present method of final examination is unsatisfactory in that inadequate opportunity for course summary and review is offered. A large part of the present dissension is caused by the unabated assigning of daily work and unannounced quizzing by the faculty until the final examination period actually begins. Such a practice undeniably places the student at a definite disadvantage, but it does not constitute the most serious evil of the present system. It is a generally accepted fact that the most objectionable phase of the system is the doubling-up of finals in which many students are forced to receive three-hour final examinations in two subjects on one day, being allowed only the previous night for final summary and review. Under this method, the student is forced to refresh in his mind the essential facts covered in ten weeks of the routine work of two separate courses in a very few hours. The subsequent loss of sleep and failure to be allowed opportunity for adequate preparation results in a minimum rather than a maximum display of ability and knowledge under the additional stress of final examinations.

This problem is not without solution. Prominent members of the faculty and student body have suggested a reasonable solution in which the final examination period is extended over ten days, during which time no regular classes are scheduled. No student would be required to take more than one examination per day, and in some cases would be examined only every second day, allowing a full day between quizzes in which to review.

Such an idea did not originate in this college. It has been put into practice at other reputable state schools in the United States and has been found unquestionably of great practical benefit. Its advantages over the currently advocated revival of "dead week" are most evident. The fact that dead week has already been proved impractical and has invoked many expressions of disapproval from administrative sources necessitates the submitting of a better plan to remedy the admitted evil that exists at A. & M. It is our hope that the substitute outline here will merit the serious consideration of those in administrative offices, and as members of the student body which is suffering the restriction of learning so evidently embodied in the present system, we earnestly urge its adoption.

Rigned—  
DAVID THRIFT, F. A. Senior  
MAC D. OLIVER, F. A. Junior

On National Affairs

FOREIGN POLICY

We are in danger of being swept off our feet upon the question of foreign policy, or more specifically, upon the question now assuming the name of "national defense." A great deal of loose talk has been uttered recently about the necessities of our "national defense". President Roosevelt, who always needs to be watched carefully when foreign policy is under consideration, has been announcing our need for an enlarged army and navy and air force. Stupendous budgetary estimates for these purposes have been made public.

Most Americans seem to favor the program of rearmament. It is not surprising. Most of us do not know what threats we are among to defend ourselves against. Yet most of us have a feeling of insecurity. In Europe we think we see ruthless dictators proceeding to triumph after triumph over what used to be called the democratic nations. In Asia another totalitarian nation is expanding its influence and its territory. We fear anything we imagine is likely to give the dictators a foothold in or near America. Therefore when the President, or anyone else, suggests powerful armament, in the name of self-protection, we almost automatically approve the suggestion.

Personally, I do not think the United States has an interests in Europe or in Asia for which we ought to fight. Our great strength lies in our own continental position. Our policy with respect to conflicts among nations elsewhere should be so to shape our neutrality acts as to make it easy for us to give economic assistance to nations which share our sympathies, without becoming involved in a military sense.

Some Americans are alarmed at the idea of Fascist "penetration" in South America. In the military sense, however, we can repel any military excursions without trouble, and without gigantic increases in our armed strength. As to the infiltration of ideas, there is only one sure way to overcome an idea, and that is with a better idea. No amount of high-pitched shouting about the respective virtues of political systems can have the effect of one successful demonstration of a good political system in action. If we want to win that sort of contest, the solution does not lie in shouting our rivals, but in making our own democracy so productive, so beneficial to its citizens, so peaceful, that other system appear unconquerable in comparison with it.

"THE FACTS OF LIFE"



PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

"Garden of the Moon." At the side, Jimmy Fidler playing himself, helps Pat pull a final death scene gag to get Payne signed on the dotted line. Five new and hot tunes are introduced by the band, with Payne doing the job of vocalizing which lands him in big time, and helps him win the hand of the pretty press agent.

Palace—Saturday Preview, Sunday and Monday  
"Garden of the Moon." Pat O'Brien, John Payne, Margret Lindsay, Jimmy Fidler and Joe Venuti. Feature begins as 11:20 Saturday night. (Reviewed to-day) Assembly Hall—Saturday  
"Carefree." Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire. Feature begins at 12:00. "Boy Meets Girl." James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and Marie Wilson. Feature begins at 6:45 and 8:30.

What's Showing

Palace—Saturday Preview, Sunday and Monday

"Garden of the Moon." Pat O'Brien, John Payne, Margret Lindsay, Jimmy Fidler and Joe Venuti. Feature begins as 11:20 Saturday night. (Reviewed to-day) Assembly Hall—Saturday

"Carefree." Ginger Rogers, Fred Astaire. Feature begins at 12:00. "Boy Meets Girl." James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and Marie Wilson. Feature begins at 6:45 and 8:30.

Heading an impressive list of entertainers, whose point efforts are guaranteed to make "Garden of the Moon" one of the most diverting films to come out of Hollywood in quite some time.

The story is of a hot feud between Pat O'Brien, impresario of the famous night spot "Garden of the Moon" and John Payne, impermanent young band leader whom O'Brien alternately hires, fires and tries to rehire. Margret Lindsay a pretty press agent for the night spot is right in the middle, but she soon swings over to Payne's

Palace Today - Sat.  
Wayne Morris, in "Brother Rat"

Preview - 11 P. M.  
Sat. Night

THE WORLD'S SWANLIEST SWING CPAT



with PAT O'BRIEN · JOHN PAYNE · MARGARET LINDSAY · JIMMY FIDLER  
Shown Sun. - Mon.

NEW DIXIE  
Sun. - Mon. - Tues.



Associates:  
H. E. Burgess, '29  
Sidney L. Loveless, '38  
O. B. Donaho

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

THE BIOLOGY CLUB

One of the outstandingly active clubs on this campus is the Biology Club, which has maintained a consistently high standard since its inception in the spring of 1937. It is the only club whose membership is limited to a select number, elected by committee.

The forty members of the Club, counseled by Dr. Charles La Motte, Professor of Biology, have derived great educational and entertainment values from the meetings, held regularly on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The object of the Club is to enlighten its members, and as far as possible the entire student body, in all biological fields and matters of general interest and importance. One does not have to be a student of biology or necessarily possess any special knowledge of the subject to be a member; all that is necessary is an interest in it—and the members have found their interest well repaid.

Since its founding the Club has had meetings of many kinds—lectures, demonstrations, educational moving pictures, social meetings, and special projects. The programs have included, to mention but a few, the following: a scientific demonstration of the various stages of the embryo in eggs, seen through transparent windows in the shells, and of the actual operation of putting one of these windows in an egg for observation; a very interesting talk by Dr. Russell, Head of the Rural Sociology Department, on sexual vices and abnormalities; a lecture by Dr. W. B. Davis of the Wild Game Department on the biological problems involved in conservation work; a lecture by Dr. C. H. Winkler, Head of the Psychology Department, on the psychology of

dreams; a wild-flower show given for the college last May; and an address by Dean Brooks on "Steps in Learning", given at the Club banquet last spring.

This year the Biology Club has attended a Marriage and Family Relations course lecture by Dr. J. H. Quisenberry of the Genetics Dept. on "The Importance of Inherited Factors in Marriage". The Club recently presented a special lecture and amazing demonstration of hypnotism by the well-known local hypnotist Matthew Feinstein; and secured the noted scientist, author, traveler, and lecturer Dr. Anna Chandler of Rice Institute to give a lecture for the entire college on "Human Diseases in the Tropics". Many more fine programs are being projected for the rest of the year.

Officers of the Club for this year are Rollins Colquitt, president; Bill Murray, vice-president and program committee chairman; Allen Erck, treasurer; and R. M. ("Tex") Flynn, secretary.

New Records

"BUMBLE BEE STOMP" and "CIRIBIRBIN" by Benny Goodman and his Orchestra are truly Swing Classics of the first order. All of the Goodman soloists are given a chance to show off and swing out in these two numbers.

"YOU LOOK GOOD TO ME" and "THIS IS MADNESS" by Sammy Kaye are two promising numbers in that well performed swing and sway style for which Sammy Kaye is famous. The three Barons furnish the lyrics to the first number, while Tommy Ryan sings a chorous to "THIS IS MADNESS".



For A Man  
To Give  
to delight a  
Feminine Heart

Luxurious robes, house-coats, and pajamas that will make your girl (or mother) gasp with joy.

Choose from a selection of glamorous Satins, or beautiful Chenilles and warm flannels—

\$5.95 to \$19.95

If you are undecided, let us help you select something in luggage, lingerie, or any of a number of small items. A gift from a Ladies Shop will please her.

The Smart Shop

Appealing gift packages wrapped free!

ONLY 7 MORE SCHOOL DAY SHOPPING DAYS

AVOID THAT  
LAST MINUTE RUSH

Our Windows Are Full of Gift Suggestions

THE EXCHANGE STORE

"An Aggie Institution"