

### BAD SETTLEMENT

Recent adoption of the exemption system here is, we believe, deplorable. Exemptions, it seems to us, befit a high school much better than a technical college.

As we have stated before, exemptions are based upon the "penalty theory" of teaching. Rather than serving as an award to students who do good work, they are rather a penalty upon those who do not do so.

Consider this. If final examinations serve the purpose of giving students comprehensive views of a course, as they are supposed to do, then what is the logic behind taking this service—if it is a service—from the best students? If, on the other hand, finals no longer serve this purpose, then why should any students be compelled to take them?

In the faculty meeting which saw the adoption of the exemption system, a proposal that local specialists in education survey the real purpose of finals and that they determine whether they do fulfill a purpose was made. It is highly regrettable that no such action was taken. Nothing, in our opinion, could do more good than a thorough investigation, by our own professors, of A. & M.'s educational system.

Back to Dead Week, for which we have worked this year, the report of a faculty committee to investigate the matter was never made public.

Another point to the exemption system which seems out of place to us is that seniors are compelled to take finals in their last term, after this year. We do not hold exemption for the last term to be a senior privilege; we hold it to be a senior necessity.

The last part of each term sees A. & M. seniors searching for jobs in competition with seniors from all other colleges. Surely they should not be asked to worry about grades at the same time they're worrying about employment.

The rule making seniors take finals unless they are scholastically exempt was adopted as an amendment to the entire exemption rule. The whole matter, not merely senior exemptions, but the entire exemption system, should be reconsidered by the faculty, we believe. Serious thought to the problem might change the course of events somewhat.

### ATHLETICS

With the running of the annual conference track meet at College Station Saturday and the playing of the finals in the tennis singles and doubles in Houston, the Southwest Conference and the University all but completed one of the most successful of its three decades of athletic history. Only a few baseball games remain on the schedule for next week, and then each of the seven schools will turn its attention to final examinations and thoughts of the 1939-1940 seasons.

From the time the first football game was played last September until Fred Wolcott of Rice set a new 9.5 seconds record Friday afternoon in the 100-yard dash event at College Station, the seven schools of the Southwest Conference were continually breaking into sports news throughout the country. With football, the Horned Frogs of T. C. U. were crowned by many as the national champions. The Longhorn basketball team won the conference title and received an invitation to the San Francisco tournament of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The 1939 season's successes of this time are largely responsible for the team's having been invited to play in Madison Square Garden in New York City during the Christmas holidays next season.

In baseball, the Longhorn team won for Uncle Billy Ditch his twentieth conference title and the fact that the team is still undefeated in conference play has won wide recognition for the Austin squad. A victory over the Philadelphia Phillies gave them national publicity as among the tops in collegiate baseball circles.

At Rice, two of the country's greatest junior stars held true to their sophomore predictions this year and during the next few weeks with national collegiate meets, more will be heard from Wolcott, the track star, and Frank Guernsey, national intercollegiate tennis singles champion.

Tex Robertson's swimmers won a tie for third place in the national swimming meet at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the A. & M. water polo team won a national title at Chicago.

## The Battalion

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A few years ago, sports in the Southwest was comparatively unknown in other sections of the country. During the past eight years, however, Southwest Conference teams have become popular attractions for inter-sectional games throughout the country.

Predictions are that the 1939-1940 season will be even greater, and the University hopes are higher than before.

This does not mean, however, that in the Southwest athletics is taking over the educational institutions. On the contrary, the educational institutions have benefitted by the growth of the athletic departments. During these same eight years, the institutions of the Southwest have gained more notice throughout the country than ever before, and today they are enrolling a much greater number of students from other states.

Present indications are that the Southwest will soon be on even grounds with leading institutions of other sections of the country, both scholastically and athletically.

—Daily Texan

**QUARTERBACK SHUFFLE:** When the footballers of Murray State Teachers College trot out onto the gridiron next fall, the quarterback is going to be a card expert as well as a ball-carrier. Here's the plan:

Coch Roy Stewart is going to equip the signal-caller with waterproof cards containing the diagrams of all of the intricate plays and defense formations. When the team goes into a huddle, the quarterback will select the next play, pass the proper card around to each player. Purpose of the plan is to prevent confusion—but referees claim they're going to be making a lot of penalties for too much time in the huddle.

Anyway, the democrats should rejoice: Spectators will use "Give us a new deal" for their battery.

**PADDY IN THE PADDY WAGON:** Marquette University's football coach, "Paddy" Driscoll, lived up to his nickname last week—and thereby hangs a good story.

Caught going through a red light, he was hailed into court. He got a former footballer to defend him, and here's the lawyer's argument to the judge: "Your honor, the coach glanced around, thinking he saw some backfield material and missed the light."

The judge, also a former footballer, replied: "I understand the coach's predicament. Sentence suspended!"

### THE STUDENT FORUM

TO THE BATTALION:

Well, the Aggies now have final exam exemptions, and it is to be hoped that they will prove effective. The resolution which was passed provides that 25% of each instructor's class in each course be exempt providing a grade of A or B has been made up to exam time. The exemptions, however, are optional. The resolution will apply to seniors in the same way, beginning next year—unless a further modification is made.

This is not the same system that we had suggested—we had recommended that the highest 25% in each section, be exempt; and we hope that seniors can again be exempt from their last-semester finals—but the resolution is the most suitable compromise that could be obtained. It probably is far from perfect, being just the first step toward reform in the exam system; but trial and error should determine our future course in this respect, and necessary improvements can be made.

Before the exemptions were adopted, approximately 90% of the student body, it seemed, desired them. Now, already, a large number of students, not to mention a number of ever-akeptical faculty members, are beginning to "second guess" and are predicting that the exemption system does not have "the chance of a snowball in Hades" of working. How do we know yet? Isn't it just a bit early to make such declarations, since it has never yet been tried out here? There is one way we can find out, and that is by trying the system about twice. We hope it will work!

During the last couple of years there has been an alarming slump in study and scholarship at this college. For instance, 49% of the student body was deficient last mid-term. Not assuming by any means that we were unfailingly right, our group set out nevertheless to study the situation and see if our humble efforts might not accomplish something, no matter how little. Final exam exemptions, as a means of encouraging increased study and scholarship in order to attain exemptions, as well as of reforming to some extent the heartily unpopular exam system here, was just one of a number of things we thought might help out. We never stated that exemptions were bound to work; but we said that we thought they might. And we still think they could, and would—and will, if our previous grading system or ratio is employed without change. What we fear and what many other students fear is that many instructors, determined to retain the old exam system or to make up its change with increased severity on their part, will refuse to grant any A's or B's (as we heard one petroleum engineering teacher has already promised) or will give so many quizzes, make them so much harder, and grade them so much more strictly, that students will be discouraged and will find it practically impossible to attain exemptions or futile to have attained them.

We have requested that the teachers make an attempt, at least, to see these things through the eyes of students as well as faculty members. We repeat that request; and reiterate our belief and hope that the exemption system will work if the teachers cooperate with the students as fully as is necessary.

—Bob Baird  
—Bill Oswalt  
—Andy Rollins  
—David Thrift  
—John H. Wiggs  
—Bill Murray  
—Ed Hagan  
—Bob Adams  
—Leonard Garrett  
—D. B. Varner

### THE KING'S HIGHWAY



### PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

BY BOB NISBET

**"IDIOT'S DELIGHT"**—A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer release directed by Clarence Brown, produced by Hunt Stromberg, and taken from a play by Robert E. Sherwood. Showing at the Assembly Hall Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Cast

Irene ..... Norma Shearer  
Harry ..... Clark Gable  
Achille Weber ..... Edward Arnold  
Dr. Waldessee ..... Charles Coburn  
Captain Kirvline ..... Jos. Schildkraut  
Quillery ..... Burgess Meredith  
Madame Zuelika ..... Laura Hope Crews

If Hollywood would continue to call its shots as well as when "Idiot's Delight" was named, movie-goers could pick their shows without much trouble. Never did a title more appropriately fit a show. The author of the play cannot complain that the movies butchered his fine play, because M-G-M allowed Robert Sherwood to adapt his own play to the screen. This Pulitzer-Prize play when shown on Broadway trod on the toes of several countries in Europe; so Sherwood doctored up the movie version in order that it could be sold abroad. Officers of the army talk in Esperanto, the "international language," and wear a uniform unlike any now in use in any major European country. The only catch is that when the accusations and insinuations were taken out there just wasn't anything left.

In the show Clark Gable is presented as Harry Van, a small-time vaudeville hooper just back from the World War, broke and out of a job. He tries various jobs before working as an assistant in a mind-reading act. In Omaha he is fas-

cinated by Irene (Norma Shearer) who is working as a member of an acrobatic troupe. Six years later Harry is touring Europe with a musical act of six dancing girls and spends the night at a hotel on a frontier post. Chance decrees that Irene also arrives at the hotel, but she is now traveling as a Russian countess and refuses to recognize Harry. During the night the hotel is bombed, and Irene confesses her identity.

This show is lousy for two reasons—Clark Gable and Norma Shearer. Gable can't dance, and his meagre efforts are not entertaining. Shearer's Russian accent is not only boring, it is repulsive.

### Goings On

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 16—A. & M. vs. Texas University, Baseball, Kyle Field.  
May 21—Reserve Officers' Association Senior Luncheon, 12 noon Mess Hall.  
May 26, I. E. Club Benefit show, Assembly Hall, 6:45 p. m.  
June 1, Junior Prom, Mess Hall, 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.  
June 2, Final Ball, Mess Hall, 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.

Rev. Father G. M. A. Schoener of the University of Santa Clara was the first in the world to grow a black rose.

An advisory council on education in the graphic arts has been formed by the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

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### COLLEGIATE REVIEW

In June Stevens Institute of Technology will sponsor a conference on the interrelations of business and government.

America's first extensive history of the south—10 volumes—has been started by University of Texas and Louisiana State University historians.

Since September, audiences totalling more than 50,000 persons have heard programs featuring Wayne University speech students.

Cricket, the famed English game, is a popular student sport on the Mount Angel College campus.

The University of Wisconsin has the only department of Gaelic in any U. S. college or university.

Rice Institute has been given a whale for its biology department. Students enrolled in field courses in the Columbia University

summer session will travel more than 31,000 miles on their tours. A University of Tennessee doctor has successfully used an abdominal fluid as a substitute for blood in transfusions.

Hampden-Sydney College was founded six months before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

In 1936 there were 1,015,000 living graduates of all U. S. higher educational institutions.

Approximately one-third of all higher educational institutions in the U. S. are state supported and controlled.

Fifteen per cent of the fathers of college male students are engaged in a profession.

### PALACE

LAST DAY — WED. "CALLING DR. KILDARE" THURS. - FRI. - SAT.

Confessions of a NAZI SPY EDWARD G. ROBINSON FRANCIS LEDERER - Gen. Sanders - Paul Lukas Henry O'Hall - Directed by ANATOLE LITVAK

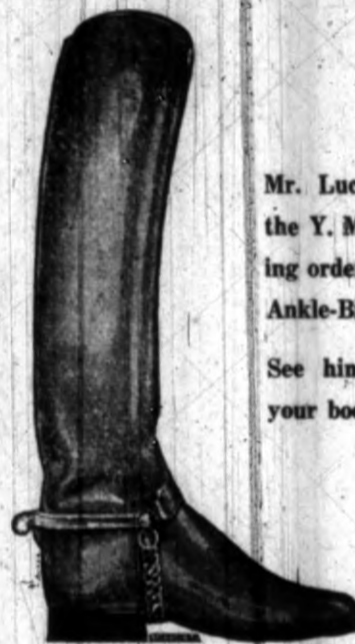
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