

The Summer BATTALION

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Why No Special Exams in Summer?

During the final exam week of the first summer semester just past, no provision was made so that students might if necessary take special or "conflict" examinations. This is a situation which The Battalion believes needs remedying.

The presumption that there are no students whatsoever for whom it is impossible or highly impracticable to take exams at the prescribed, stipulated hour is presuming rather too broadly, we believe. There are those students whose position, employment, or other engagements of importance do make it completely or virtually impossible to take their exams at this certain time, and for whom it is necessary to make other arrangements.

The Battalion suggests that arrangements be made for the exam week of this semester so that these students may take conflict exams at times that will suit them, as during the regular session.

Recently The Battalion suggested in an editorial that the library remain open during the weekends to facilitate the work of students. This suggestion was speedily answered by the library. It is to be hoped that the above suggestion in regard to the exam situation may meet the same happy fate, thereby facilitating the work of still more students.

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

By DR. R. P. LUDLUM

TIME reports that figures based on official statistics of the Reich Department of Health show Germany is becoming a nation in bad health. They show the number of cases of each of the following diseases to have increased as shown (figures indicate the number of cases in 1933 and in 1938): diphtheria, from 77,340 to 149,429; scarlet fever, from 79,890 to 114,243; contagious cerebro-spinal meningitis, from 617 to 1,826; infantile paralysis, from 1,318 to 5,757; contagious dysentery, from 2,865 to 3,265; trichinosis, from 2 to 21. The reasons given for the country's poor health are poor nutrition, unhygienic crowding among young people, fewer doctors, fewer midwives, fewer meat inspectors and consequent use of bad meat, scantier public distribution of medicines, and overwork. Time says "Germany's state of public health is like that of a country in the last throes of a war of attrition." I wonder whether Germany, then, should start a genuine war?

It is heart-rending to read of the arrival of Jewish refugee children in London. Each one is to be adopted by a "guarantor." In the account I saw, two things struck me particularly. One was that each child wore a label. The first thing each guarantor invariably did was to remove the label from its place about the child's neck, and throw it away. The other point was that the children were all immaculately dressed, in new or carefully mended clothes. Can't you imagine the parents, almost certain never to see their children again, preparing them for a journey at the end of which they would be cared for by strangers, making every effort to present themselves and their children as best they could through the mute medium of carefully-arranged clothes?

I am heartily tired of the argument that if a great war comes, the United States cannot stay out of it. If no great nation can avoid participation in a general-war, then why all the bargaining between Russia and England? Russia appears to act directly upon the conviction that unless terms suitable to her are made in advance, she need not enter any future war. Chamberlain's government appears to share the conviction. Otherwise, it would not be necessary to bargain. Chamberlain could count upon Russian participation, terms or no terms, and he'd not need to go through all the present negotiations.

It must be disappointing to those who had supposed the American Federation of Labor was ultra-conservative to see how strongly the Federation supported the WPA strikes. The reason for the support, I suppose, is that the WPA has on its rolls a large number of AFL members, especially workers in the building trades. The AFL does not want the prevailing wage scale to go down in the WPA, because thereafter it may be forced down in private industry.

Punch and Judy, famed old English comedy puppets, have come to life again at the New York Fair.

Will There Be A War?

The state of confusion existing among the experts over the burning question of "Will there be a war soon?" can be judged by two articles appearing recently in leading serious magazines. Both articles were written by men of reputation, with a fair claim to being authorities on events abroad. One was entitled "There Will Be No War." The other was entitled "Hitler Must Fight."

One theory which is encouraging to the beleaguered democracies of Europe is that Hitler cannot afford a war for the reason that it would bring with it an excellent chance of revolution at home—and that Hitler knows this, even as he and other Nazi officials attempt to discredit it publicly. Certainly an excellent argument can be made in support of the theory. The Nazi regime has outlawed labor unions. It has fought the churches, especially the Catholic. It has imprisoned untold thousands of dissenters in concentration camps, and executed many. It has driven other thousands into exile. The persecuted people have families, friends, connections.

Not much is heard from these dissenters—the iron heel of the Gestapo prevents that—but it is logical to believe that a substantial proportion of the German people hate the regime in power, and are waiting for the day when it may be destroyed.

In the countries which Hitler has subjugated—such as Austria and the Czech provinces—conditions are still worse from the Nazi point of view: Production in factories has slowed down, a tremendously expensive policing job has become necessary, and well supported accounts of sabotage are current.

These arguments, particularly to the economist, are quite sound. However, Hitler and the Nazi forces are continuing to produce arms, to drill an ever increasing army, and to throw scares into other nations of the world by threats and movements towards smaller nations.

Even with the possibility of revolution or of economic chaos, Hitler, by previous actions, has committed himself towards eventual war. We must face the fact that he may either find himself facing war or complete failure plus revolution. It is logical to think that such a person would prefer war and one last "hope" in preference to immediate loss of an entire program.

—The Daily Texan

On Library Attendance

Dr. T. F. Mayo, librarian, has announced that on an average the summer students visit the library more than the long-term students.

During the last regular session, ending in June, there were on an average of 10,500 students per week entering the library from the student body of 5,907, and for the first summer term 3,851 students per week from the present study body of 1,357. This is close to two visits a week from each long-term student, and three for each summer-term student.

Could it be that the students visit the library more often during the summer in getting away from the heat and noise of the dormitories—or could it be that they really learn more than long session students, because reading is one of the greatest forms of increasing knowledge.

Most summer school students have pointed out, however, that the summer school proffers are the cause of the increased library attendance—the work is extra "heavy."

Summer Reading

By Dr. T. F. Mayo

"Men, Bread, and Destiny," by Furnas. A new and interesting slant on history.

"Red Star Over China," by Snow. An eminent reporter shows what is going on under the surface of the Chinese war. China is apparently developing, in the back country, a new variant of Communism.

"Power: A New Social Analysis," by Bertrand Russell. Three kinds of power make history: naked power, economic power, propaganda power. The holder of any one of these, in an overwhelming degree, will very likely acquire the other two.

"Strange Interlude," by Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill's masterpiece, and as such, the masterpiece of American drama—so one man thinks, anyhow. A woman's love for a man consists of four elements: passion, daughterly love, wifely or partnership feeling, and motherliness. Nina, O'Neill's heroine, loses her true love before marriage. The four elements of her love for him therefore split off from each other, each attaching itself to a different man, with dramatic consequences.

New Records

Paul Whiteman's concert version of Deep Purple is exactly what you would expect Paul Whiteman's c. v. of D. P. to be: ten inches of interesting but ordinary theme and variations stuff. Park Avenue Fantasy, on the reverse, hasn't enough tune to hold interest all the way.

The All-Star Band, a recording aggregation including such roustabouts as Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Binny Bergian, and more—is good but it could be better. The Blues is a showoff number in which the backing falls to pieces because everybody wants to be the next soloist. Blue Lou also suffers from an I-wanna-be-best complex. But the solos on both are some'ns.

A platterful of contrast: Mildred Bailey sings along on "Tain't What You Do, and croons on "Slumber Time Along the Sewanee. You're bound to like one or the other.

Gene Krupa, the boy who likes to bang on things, has got himself a nice band out there in the hinterlands. The Madam Swings It features—no, you're wrong—a pert piano. Quiet and Roll 'Em has a lot more Krupa, but still no drum solos. Forgive us, Gene—we can't help our suspicious nature.

Red Nichols, he of way back when—used to pitch his Five Pennies around so often, identification was pretty nearly impossible. But the Vocalion people tell us that the reissue of Dinah and Indiana has Teagarden, Rusin, Goodman, Krupa, and Kress—an imposing array. The tune-treatment is that heavy-footed variety of swing we don't get enough of nowadays, what with streamlining civilizing the jams.

Movie Review

By Bob Nisbet

I have a tip for purchasers of "Y" cards for the first semester of the next regular term. A Walt Disney production will be shown every Saturday night until Christmas or after. That means a lot of Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse.

New to get down to the business of hand. This week's three shows are "Tell No Tales", "Society Lawyer", and "Twelve Crowded Hours". None of this batch are much good, but you might enjoy Melvyn Douglas in "Tell No Tales", "Society Lawyer" is fair, but "Twelve Crowded Hours" is not even pretty good.

Saturday's show, "Tell No Tales", is a story about the managing editor of the Evening Guardian who is informed during the celebration of the paper's seventy-fifth anniversary that a rival paper had bought the paper and had suspended publication in order to cut down competition. As he cashes his last check, he is given a hundred-dollar bill which is identified as part of a ransom in a recent kidnap-murder case. He immediately orders everyone back to work, and sets out to trace the bill. From this point things get complicated, but he does get a scoop story for the paper.

In "Society Lawyer" Christopher Durant (Walter Pidgeon) turns from the practice of civil law to that of criminal law and his first case is that of Tony Gazotti. He wins an acquittal for Tony and wins Tony as a staunch friend. His best girl breaks their engagement when she learns he has turned criminal lawyer. Not to be daunted however, Durant tackles a murder case, solves it, finds another girl, marries her, and leaves for Europe on a honeymoon.

Richard Dix plays the lead in "Twelve Crowded Hours". Frankly it is one of the poorest exhibitions of acting Dix has put out to date. Probably the less said the better. The plot is a routine story of a newspaper reporter mixing blows with the numbers-racket gang.

What's Showing

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Saturday—"Tell No Tales", with Melvyn Douglas and Louise Platt.

Tuesday—"Society Lawyer", with Walter Pidgeon, Virginia Bruce, and Leo Carrillo.

Thursday—"Twelve Crowded Hours", with Richard Dix and Lucille Ball.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

By Ruth Taubenhaus

Dr. W. B. Davis, head of the Department of Fish and Game, and a group of six students registered in F. B. 301, a course in field techniques, have returned to College Station after spending several weeks studying the fauna of the Guadalupe Mountains, at Trans-Pecos, Texas. The group collected 150 specimens of birds, mammals, and amphibians for the Texas Co-operative Research Museum and many botanical specimens for the A. & M. College Herbarium. The students accompanying Dr. Davis were H. O. Borgfeld, Milo Cox, Gavin Garrett, Charles Lehmann, Gilbert Trisch, and Eugene Walker.

K. Bonham, instructor in the Department of Fish and Game, accompanied by six students, has left for Kerrville, Texas to present a six weeks' field course in Wild Game. The students accompanying Professor Bonham are J. M. Arendale, H. S. Coleman, Virgil Klump, S. W. Lane, J. B. Davis, and L. E. Ulbrich.

Dr. Charles LaMotte of the Biology Department, who has been a visiting professor at Cornell University during the last semester, has returned to his home in College Station.

Weldon Brewster of the Biology Department will spend the remainder of the summer in Hollywood, New Mexico. Dr. T. W. Bretz, also of the Department of Biology, is traveling to San Diego, California, stopping at scenic places en route.

Dean R. P. Marsteller is leaving Tuesday noon to go to H. H. Morrison's "Anacacho" Ranch near Spofford, Texas. Dr. Marsteller is making a professional visit in response to a phone call from Mr. Morrison, who is in California.

Dr. J. L. Dodson of the History Department has returned to College Station after spending the last six weeks traveling in countries of continental Europe. Dr. Dodson visited France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany, collecting material to present to his classes concerning the present-day situation in Europe.

Mr. C. B. Godbey, of the Genetics Department, has returned from a month's visit at Middleburg, Kentucky.

Baron A. Dana of the Animal Husbandry Department is spending his vacation in Ames, Iowa.

H. L. Volkenberg of the School of Veterinary Medicine has returned from a visit to the New York World's Fair and other parts of New York State.

Dr. H. I. Ott of the School of Veterinary Medicine was recently at Porto Rico at a reunion of the Reserve Officers. On his return trip, Dr. Ott also visited the World's Fair.

News has been received from D. W. Williams through a letter written to his family and mailed from

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

Here and there on a parlor affair, but is very fast the campus and exciting. "Woody" Varner, next year's basketball captain and last year's junior class prexy, briefly visited the campus last Tuesday. . . . Beal Hargrove was also here for a few hours last Tuesday. Beal, who was King of the '39 Cotton Pageant and Ball, will do graduate work at North Carolina University. . . . Several Bryan girls often ride bicycles from Bryan to college and back again for the purpose of reducing. . . . Paul Martin, first lieutenant in L. Infantry last year, is now associated with the Seaboard Life Insurance Company. . . . About 200 Aggies are now registered in summer school after having spent the last six weeks at one of the various R.O.T.C. camps. There must be something about this college because all of them were anxious to get back-on the campus.

In a recent column I mentioned an unusual address written on a letter received by the Registrar's office. Since that time several other near-ridiculous addresses have been called to my attention. One letter came addressed to the college in the normal way except that beneath the name "College Station, Texas" was written in parentheses "A place near Bryan." Incidentally, it's not at all uncommon for the college to receive mail addressed to the "University of Texas, College Station."

J. G. Gay, associate secretary of the Y.M.C.A., returned from one of the "Y" summer camps recently with a new game which is proving very popular at A. & M. The game, called box hockey, is almost

Brentzel was a member of the staff of the State Teachers College of Wisconsin for three years and at Lebanon, Illinois, for three years. He received his first degree from the University of Missouri and his Master of Science degree from A. & M. in 1930. His son, H. R. Brentzel Jr., is a student in the Engineering Department here.

Dr. S. S. Goldich of the Geology Department left Saturday for Minneapolis, where he will study at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. F. E. Giesecke, director of the Engineering Experiment Station, has returned from Mackinac Island, Michigan, where he attended a three-day meeting of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. On his return trip, Dr. Giesecke stopped in Chicago to visit a School of Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning, and also several industrial plants which manufacture equipment for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning.

From the college hospital come two items of lament. "Clyde Barrow," a pet coon belonging to one of the hospital janitors, died of strangulation last week. The entire hospital staff is in mourning as the coon had become quite a pet.

And Walter Carmichael, assistant student technician, is lamenting the fact that he is on 24-hour duty and can't leave the hospital for more than 15 minutes at a time.

Two fairly attractive girls, fifteen and twenty-one years of age, were giving the Aggie competition "highwaying" in front of the college last Friday. Headed for Houston, the girls already had traveled from Waco and claimed that they often made the trip via the hitch-hiking route.

The summer session's coed population is cut almost in half this semester as 43 girls are registered, as compared with 89 last semester.

The City of College Station now has four student deputies to enforce the new taxi and traffic regulations recently passed by the city council. G. C. Hill, Charles Ballowe, G. W. Cunningham, and B. P. Burtner are the four men deputized by City Marshal Sam Hopper.

A new high in a staff member's interest in work on The Summer Battalion was recorded early this week when one of the reporters, visiting in another part of the state, even went to the expense of sending a telegram to a co-worker to let it be known that she couldn't be here to do her usual assignments.

The Summer Battalion staff will hold their banquet tonight in the mess hall. Hub Johnson will act as master of ceremonies, and Col. Ike Ashburn will make a short talk.

With Delbert Whitaker as chairman, the banquet committee includes Margaret Hollingshead, Sara Allen Cofer, Edith Thomas, and Hub Johnson, who have done a fine job organizing the affair.

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