# The Battalion

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## "Wise Guys"

Now that most students are wishing for the first time in four months that they had studied along, the time seems propitious for a short sermon on the matter

For years among a majority of students on this campus there has been an insidious stigma attached to studying, especially regular studying. With them, it's a great thing to boast, not how much they study, but how little they study. To pass a course without studying is a sly trick on the professor. It's not uncommon at all to hear, "I haven't cracked a book in that course till yet." And the deplorable thing about it all is that this is held to be complete justification for failing a course. Asked why they "busted" such-and-such course, they answer, "Oh, I didn't study." But that's no answer. The question goes behind that. Why in the h-l didn't you study?

What did you come to this school for? Oh, we know the answer to that one, too. You came here for contacts. Well, if you wise birds would open your economics textbooks and learn about the universal laws of diminishing returns and diminishing utility, you would know that you could make your contacts and study too, and come out further ahead than if you spent all your time whirling about on social and contact business. If you don't understand why, suppose you exercise your dormant intellectual curiosity for once and find out. It's simply the old story that you get more good from eating the first banana than from eating the second, and so forth. The moral is that if you mix your diet, you won't get the rickets.

Of course, we're not urging anyone to become a bookworm. Ours is the case of the old-fashioned preacher. He damned his congregation for their sins, not to make angels out of them, but to get them to be a little good. We condemn certain students for their indolence, not to make bookworms out of them, but to get them to study a little.

Studying is not a waste of time. You'll find a great deal of unexpected good to come of it. A storehouse of knowledge is a rather useful thing. and there's not much information you can't find a use for at some future time.

What we deplore are those empty-headed persons who go around bragging about their empty heads. Invoking the spirit of rugged old Thomas Carlyle again, we shout to those indolent ignoramuses, "Put some wisdom in those vacuous, cavernous craniums of yours while you may, or else you'll rattle on with your fatuous do-nothing philosophy until the end of your useless lives." -The Daily Texan

## Crosswords or Courses?

Civil service examinations are the chief hope of many job-worried graduates. This year's tests, however, with their emphasis upon "general aptitude" worry a good many technical students who know a lot about one field and almost nothing about others. Foresters, for example, are thumbing through dictionaries and working crossword puzzles in a feverish attempt to improve their general knowledge before the examinations are given. Their specialized technical training will do them no good unless they can first pass the general aptitude part of the examination.

Civil service authorities are not to blame for the unhealthy situation. They may be praised for forcing university students to become educated. For nobody may fairly be called "educated" when he is totally unequipped to deal with any problem outside his specialized field. Specialization is valuable only as it grows out of a fairly broad background. No, the civil service examinations do not create the problem. They merely point out its existence and demand of students their solution.

The most obvious solution is a schedule of courses designed to expose every student to a gen- cies. eral education. The two main difficulties in the way of solving the problem are the scarcity of courses specifically designed to attract and ad- If the present war should end in the defeat of the vanced specialist in search of broader knowledge and the unwillingness of some department heads to let their students "waste time" in other depart-

design and teach courses. Most of them know they world might adopt the barter system. The barter can cram most of the essentials of their fields into one-semester or one-year courses if they know their classes will be composed of serious juniors and sen- not in a position to supply the world with all the iors seeking to learn a little about a lot of things in a short time. Most of the present introductory courses do not fill the need because they are intended for freshmen and sophomores who expect to take further work in the field, not for juniors and to do that.

seniors who have come to realize they have missed something and want the cream of that "something" quickly. But the courses could be arranged, and the department heads who planned them would find they filled a need.

The other difficulty arises from the natural conceit of the specialist teacher who knows his field well. He is a specialist because he thought his field was most important. As he continues teaching, he comes to think it is all-important. Finally, he insists that his students think it is all-important, too, and resents their thinking they need information he is not qualified to give them. He is trapped by the fallacy that traps many successful specialists —if he is an authority in engineering, he thinks he should be accepted as an authority in political science, or literature, or psychology. Professors in those courses, in turn, fail to see the value of a general course in engineering for their students.

No immediate alleviation of the "specialized inaptitude" evil is in sight. Candidates for this year's civil service positions may get what help they can from reading, participating in extracurricular activities, taking freshman courses, and working crossword puzzles. All will help. If they get cross enough now, someday they may not be so puzzled.

### Lost: A Thumb

At least there is one group in the world not opposed to the hitch-hiker, we are happy to hear. According to a survey conducted not so long ago by the Student Opinion Surveys of America, 80 per cent of the collegians go on record against hitch-hiking laws.

Ask the average hitch-hiker, and he will tell you that the whole world is against him, especially that part of the world that rides around in automobiles-with empty back seats.

A few unfortunate incidents and the wide publication of them have well nigh ruined the hitchhiking trade. There was a time, when automobiles did not zip by so fast, that one wave of the thumb would secure a "hop." Nowadays, however, the average motorist is afraid to pick up a thumbthrower, and that seems a shame.

The majority of hitch-hikers are harmless. Many are college boys, innocent of anti-social act or motive.

Nevertheless, many car drivers won't take a chance, and if the present attitude continues, perhaps the art of hitch-hiking will take its place alongside the Egyptian skill of embalming its mummies. -Clipped.

An aged Virginia negro was arrested for making counterfeit silver dollars. Federal agents who made the arrest said he used pure silver in his operations and there was more of it in the coins he turned out than in those of the government.

A wife shot her husband because she "just got Jack Littlejhon's "I'd Rather Be name is Nan Vineyard) and mentired of seeing him around."

A colored minister in Tennessee told state liquor control officers when getting a permit to buy sacramental wine of his church that "If it's all the same to you, my congregation would like to take out gin instead of wine. We all voted that

Was it worth it?-Since the first World War-"the war to end all wars"—there have been about 60 other wars throughout the world. During the World War an average of four men a minute gave

## As the World Turns...

By "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

Communism is parading throughout the land in various forms. Like "Socialism" in the early years of this century, Communism conveys a special stigma. Yet, Socialism nowadays is a mild term. No one, as yet, has given us a comprehensive defi-



promiscuous use of the term is giving Mr. Average American a nightmare. In 1848 the Communist party in Europe demanded, among other things, a graduated income tax and free public schools, both of which we have adopted in the United States. The party also advocated the abolition of the right of inheritance, a principle which we incorporated in our graduated inheritance tax. Communistic experiments are not a novelty in Amer-

nition of Communism, and the

ican history. Seven religious and four secular communal societies have been in operation in the United States at different periods of American history, for example, the Dunkers, Separatists, Icarians, and Brook Farm. It is possible that the spectre of Communism will not haunt us in the near future.

But, before the nightmare of communism shall have spent itself, "some decent Americans may have been unfairly smeared." Take, for instance, the consumer organizations which J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies Committee, branded recently as Communistic, because they criticized false advertising. Since Communists attack advertising as a capitalistic institution, consumer organizations are Communistic. So Mr. Matthews reasons. But, the Federal Trade Commission is constantly fighting false advertising. The commission publishes the names of the firms and orders them to "cease" and "desist" their unfair practices. Is the F. T. C. Communistic? Mr. Matthews' logic is full of falla-

60% of the world's gold is in the United States. Allies, many people would be concerned as to the future of gold. At present gold is worth \$35 an ounce. Any appreciable drop in the value of gold is bound to affect our monetary status unfavor-The first problem can be solved by those who ably. Should Germany come out victorious, the system has not been as efficient as some people would have us believe. The totalitarian states are commodities that the peoples of the world need. Moreover, even if the barter system should be attempted, it would be like substituting the wheelbarrow for the automobile. The world is not ready

George Fuermann

even in Jack's experiences. Ad-

a fourth-floor window of the Aca- Clark.

She didn't like geography any-

from exemptions!"

A couple of pleasure-bent Aggies dents are Lutherans. -one of whom was a Cleveland, Ohio product-recently dated an equal number of local waitresses. After exchanging the usual small talk, one couple left the table to dance, and, upon returning, the Yankee was greeted by a fellow

The way of things . . . Cadet said than one of the girls turned set a new high you say you're from Ohio."

Fifteen more days:

lege, it read, wash's contest-one hundred words "Texas 'A. & M. or less on "What I Like (Or Don't College, Some- Like) About T. S. C. W.-ites"ton, U. S. A." ... The Battalion. If the winner is The Shisa Volun- already a subscriber, the magazine tactics, Miss Bennett wrote letteers—an organi- and newspaper will be sent to any ters and made phone calls to hun-

in the Longhorn this year for the And, once again, the committee first time in their history! . . . . of judges: Chairmaned by gradu-Aggie who is most consistently in ate assistant Troy Wakefield, the evidence at the Friday afternoon other nine members include Henry Clambakes-Dick Hobbs. He's on- Houser, Joe Gault, Robert English, ly missed one thus far . . . With a Tom Richey, Mack Duncan, Derrather despondent look on his face, rell Pitts, Don Peterson, Bob an eco student was gazing out of Lynch, Mick Williams and Willard

demic Building earlier this week, Send your entry to the writer, "Don't jump," Johnny Smith warn- Box 2279, College Station. The ed, "finals only come twice a year!" winning entry will be published in . Factual statement to end all the T.S.C.W. Lass-O and The Batfactual statements: Jim Pridmore's talion, and runners-up will appear statement that "Well, I'm exempt- in a future issue of the magazine.

> Approximately one-third of the University of North Dakota stu-

> New York University has more students (37,376) than any other U. S. college or university.

The average attendance at a cadet with a hearty, "How's the college football game this year was old Ohio kid doing?" No sooner 22,733.

Special to The Battalion from The Lass-O of T. S. C. W.

And from A. &

Aggies do not agree with what turned out to be a bombshell to she wrote. Another letter on the many freshmen here. They must same subject said that if Aggies' be suffering from "finals fever." dispositions were only as bright as the ten-cent shine of their boots, And still from the letter departit must be pretty dull, because ment: Charles Baker would have shoe shines cost two bits! (Why his friends know that he's just as get technical about this thing?) happy that Gloria Wynne is minus

we get this little item: "Here's pear that he had been jilted. Oh chatter at its best. It seems that a no, dear readers, not that! short time ago Bill Newcomb received a letter addressed to any student at Colgate. It was from some blossoming Texas bud, who goes to T.S.C.W., the largest woman's college in the world. She seems to want company or letters (by the way her address is Box

Successful new song of A. & M. 2393, Denton, Texas, and the a Texas Aggie," is quite a swingy tioned the fact that there are three little tune that we will probably thousand girls and no men at all be singing before long. We T.S.C.W. Wrote back our galhear that copies will be on sale lant Bill Newcomb words to this in the Ad. Build- effect: "Sister, there are one ing soon and for thousand boys at Colgate and any only four bits too. one of them can handle three girls!"

M. again, we get Last week's column brought more a postcard which complaints than usual, and from says: "I'll have T.S.C.W. as well as A. & M. We you know that my received eight anonymous letters kiss is quite from Aggieland saying they did noiseless, and no not think the principle the Antione has ever com- Aggie Association is based upon plained of its is so darn clever. And Capps lack of sincerity." dorm let us know in no subtle Which all goes to fashion that they are AAA's just show that while as much as Lowry girls are, what-Jones' letter won ever honor that is. What seemed a dollar and a subscription, many a mildly amusing paragraph to us

an Aggie as she is. It seems that From Colgate's campus paper my column last week made it ap-

> Save Money On VALENTINE CANDY Aggieland Pharmacy's

Ad. Saturday

# Movie Peviceer by Bob Nisbet

day and Friday nights.

the studio wouldn't revise their about his housekeeper's daughter. zation composed of waiters in the address in the nation which he dreds of women's clubs over the Denton has received a music set country urging them to boycott the show and make speeches against it. Did she get fooled! That move was the best piece of advertising the picture got. Women she had called broke their necks getting to the show. All of which proves that Joan had better take a lesson in psychology, Dr. Winkler recommended.

The cast for the picture follows: Joan Bennett Hilda .... Deacon Maxwell..Adolphe Menjou Robert Randall.....John Hubbard Ed O'Malley.....William Gargan

WHAT'S SHOWING AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Thursday and Friday-"THE HOUSEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER," with Joan Bennett, Adolphe Menjou, and John Hubbard.

AT THE PALACE Beginning Wednesday — "THE REAL GLORY," with Gary Cooper, Andrea Leeds, and David Niven.

AT THE QUEEN Friday and Saturday -"BEWARE OF SPOOKS," with Joe E. Brown and Mary

mail carrier Jack Calhoun often to the boys and in a very, very No benefit show this week, but Hilda Swanson, whose mother comes across unusual addresses, suspicious voice demanded, "just there will be a show-and how kept house for the Park Avenue but the gem which came to the what is this anyway? First you Joan Bennett in "THE HOUSE- family Randalls, broke up with her Registrar's Office last week almost say you're from Cleveland and now KEEPER'S DAUGHTER" is show- boy friend, Lefty Johnson, being at the Assembly Hall Thurs- cause he had turned his law practice into a tool of gangster Floyd An interesting sidelight on this Martin. Almost immediately he dressed to the col- Half a month more and Back- show comes from la Bennett, her- gets in trouble and is complicatself. The studio put out publicity ed in a murder case. Robert Ranon the show about the "daughter" dall takes the job of reporting on doing "things she hadn't oughter." the case and begins some private between is over. Any Aggie is eligible, Joan objected very strongly to such sleuthing, and in the meantime Dallas and Hous- and the prize is a subscription to suggestive advertising, so, since uncovers some interesting facts

> granted by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The set includes 1,000 records of music from over the world, an electric phonograph designed for small auditoriums, 150 scores and 100 books on music.



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