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TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1947

Living in the Past Is Not Enough ...

Experiment is the life of science. Is A. to upset the apple-cart so far as the corps is

in use at this college for seventy-one years. Sometimes it has worked well. At other times it hasn't. Right now is one of those times when it hasn't.

Last year the corps included only one out of every four Aggies. The proportion of cadets will undoubtedly increase slowly during the next few years, but it will be some before cadets again outnumber vetertime ans. It will be quite a while before all veterans are gone.

If the corps' own definition is used, everyone not a cadet is, in some measure, an "outsider." We have a whopping number of outsidders now. This list includes veterans, transfers from our own junior colleges, transfers from other colleges, and the non-veteran-non-military group. What about these "misfits"?

Most veterans are ex-cadets, and will readily support the corps in any dispute. A few veterans have returned to the corps. Most, however, have taken the position, "We approve of the corps, but darned if we'll go back in it." The questionable treatment given transfers from A. & M.'s own junior colleges has already been discussed here. Transfers from outside the A. & M. system seldom have much to say, but there are quite a few here. The non-vet-non-reg group is small

The school, however, still operates many of its activities primarily for the Cadet Corps. The senior and junior classes-which is to say, the seniors and juniors in the corpsare the final authority of many matters which are the concern of the entire student body. The veterans have been "cut in" on certain activities, such as the co-editorships of The Battalion and the Longhorn. But in most cases, it is a fifty-fifty cut.

For instance, in the case of the Exchange Store committee, representatives of the approximate 6,000 veterans had the same vote as the committeemen representing 1,500 cadets-and at the last meeting of the committee, the corps representatives were actually no longer in the corps!

Does that make sense?

Bruce

since it tends to

sured by a college degree. It does n't even indicate that its possesson

has an adequate education. Peopl

with determination and self-disci

pline get better educations than those who cheat their way through

or those who graduate and then

for the pur-pose of obtain-ing two or three letters to attach to the end of the ir n a m e and thereby serve as the magic

thereby serve of tourists. as the magic pass to the better jobs. This is a threat to real e ducation thereby serve fortnight or so Ivan Yantis suffers a lapse into normatcy. Every fortnight or so Ivan Yantis suffers a lapse into normatcy. Every fortnight or so Ivan Yantis suffers a lapse into normatcy. This is a threat to real e ducation thereby serve a soft spot in their hearts for Ivan, knowing the same can happen to any budding journalist, so they print the tripe hoping he may see it and return to the drab, uneventful rut of life of before. The articles he sends, you will agree, smell as badly as the goat skins, but we beg

ar indulgence. It's in a good cause. In future issues of The Battalion Ivan Yantis' articles will be into mass production industries turning out degrees instead of in-stitutions where minds are enprinted, but they will all be marked and by-lined in order that wives of nervous caliber may avoid them. The Battalion refuses to accept

> sonal qualifications pertinent to the fetish of degrees has sometime success. Such qualities as indus-try, integrity, adaptability, and colleges attainment of a master's capacty to get on with people do not come automatically with a de-gree. Neither do courses in class-rooms offer a cure for laziness, grees that they have been virtually slackness, inattention, or careless-destroyed as meaningful symbols. ness. The first mentioned qualities are frequently more important Some learn more rapidly by ex-

> than the quantity of knowledge a person carries in his head. perience and observation, some by the use of books, and some through Despite the fact that a degree

can mean much or absolutely nothod is valid in particular cases, but ing, the requirement of a college a general prescription is like a un-iform dist for everybody. The easdegree is becoming so general as to stimulate a rush to college in or-der to acquire the label. This iest advice to give anyone is to take further training. Though ex-perience is a hard teacher, it is a very effective one, and it has the advantage of continuing instrucdefinite change in the whole out-look and mental structure of a person's life. A truly educated man does not look with contempt headlong rush is not entirely the fault of the individual; the Federal Government is forcing many through the educational mill by using the degree as a yardstick by which applicants for the more imman does not look with contempt upon the manual laborer. But the man who seeks a degree solely be-cause he wants to be a white col-lar worker and have callouses on places other than his hands, is headed for snobbery rather than real education. This matchesis may portant positions are measured There is no surer way to make bureaucracy a burden upon the public than to put symbols in place of reality as an indication of fit-ness and to set up formal requirereal education. This snobbery may make a potentially skilled mechanic ments in place of substantive achievement, Government agencies are not unique in their insistence upon degrees. Journal-ism and banking are outstanding examples of fields that make a fet-It is naive to believe that the Bachelor of Arts degree or the Bachelor of Science degree stands for something specific, notwith-standing the specialized type of work done in colleges and univerish of letters after a man's name. Teaching is one place where de-grees may be regarded as a proper requirement, but even in this field



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NEW MODERN EQUIPMENT

Future Depends on August 23 ... munity—support this amendment on Au-gust 23. A. & M. is YOUR school! The future of A. & M. depends on YOU!

A light vote among the people of Texas on August 23 may mean the difference between new and old facilities on the A. & M. campus. On that day Texans will have their say about the \$60,000,000 building amendment to finance a 30-year building program for A. & M., the University of Texas, and 14 other state-supported schools.

There is some opposition to the measure,

& M. ready for a major experiment in the science of collegiate living?. The military system of housing has been The military system of housing has been leaders have said that the corps cannot get back to normal, cannot enforce military discipline, as long as the college is crowded with veterans not subject to the same discipline. If this is correct, might it not be wise to suspend the military-college rating and change temporarily to a civilian-college ROTC basis?

That's a big question, and a disturbing one. It is not answerable by the protest, "We've always been a military college!" If

such a step would improve conditions on the A. & M. campus, even temporarily, it should be taken.

The reply might be made, "If the military-school system were dropped even temporarily, it would never be restored! No school has ever gone back to military system after dropping it!" If that is true, one must ask "Why not?" If experiment proves the civilian school basis to be better, then it should be kept. If experiment indicates that the merits of the military system outweigh the demerits, then the change-back should certainly be made.

The protest might also be made, "Why, fail to follow up their education by if the military system were dropped, even temporarily, next thing you know they would allow co-eds on the campus!" We have never value an individual gets out of a if the military system were dropped, even been able to understand why the presence of college education is directly pro-portional to the effort he puts into co-eds should be looked upon as such a disgetting it. Educational experience means aster. Other schools have them, and seem to do all right. Aggies take off every weekend to visit Austin or Huntsville or Houston where co-eds are to be found. The only reason A. & M.'s main campus is not co-educational now is that there was no place for girls under the military system. (How drab this campus will look after the veteran's wives leave!)

During the years to come, many changes will have to be made at A. & M. A more liberal curriculum is necessary if our grad-uates are to compete successfully with men petent into a bad ranch-manager. liberal curriculum is necessary if our gradwho have had a broader education. To broaden our educational basis and still not reduce technical training, it may be necessary to increase the number of five-years courses. Will the military basis help or hinder these changes?

Like all other institutions, A. & M. must constantly improve, or slowly die. We must not be afraid to break with the past, if that The ex-cadet veterans have had no desire is the only way improvement can be made.

sities. The prestige of the Bache-lor of Arts degree is so great that other more specific degrees tend to disappear, and an A.B. is awarded in many institutions for work which has few or none of the elements of a liberal arts education. The situation is similar for the Bachelor of Science degree. It is equally foolish to think that

degrees from all institutions are fairly comparable, in spite of the fact that all may be "approved" 'certified", or "accredited". A multitude believe that a degree is the result of 120 to 160 "semester hours" of instruction. However

this criterion only measures the number of times that a student physically attended class and in way measures what entered

larged, where real thinking takes any responsibility for the effect. place instead of rote memorization and where desirable qualities of character are developed. The qualifications for the success in a given job cannot be mea-

and a matter of a thousand votes might mean a downfall of the bill for which 16 Texas colleges are awaiting the "go" signal.

The building program, Senate Joint Resolution 4, was passed by the senate during the past legislature. Neither a new nor an additional tax is called for under the amendment. It is merely a reallocation of an existing tax, under which the 16 state-supported schools will continue to progress.

If the vote is unfavorable, the schools will deteriorate for lack of building and instructional facilities.

A. & M. would be permitted to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds, and the University of Texas \$10,000,000 in bonds, payable out of income from the invested portion of the permanent university fund, an income which the two schools share.

As for the other 14 schools, the proposed amendment assigns from the presently authorized 7 cents per \$100 valuation property tax for Confederate pension purposes a 5-cent portion for a special fund to finance a 30-year building program. They would share in revenue from the special 5-cent tax which would be used to amortize a series of three ten-year bond issues at each institution. The revenue would be distributed proportionately among the 14 colleges according to enrollment, and it is estimated that at least \$45,-000,000 would become available to these schools in 30 years. For instance, North Texas State College, a school of more than 4,500 students, will receive approximately one-eighth of the \$45,000,000 set aside for the 14 schools.

Voters of Texas students, faculty mem-bers, ex-students, and residents of the com-

I wrote to the Minister of Fuel and Power: "Although not a Socialist I must congratulate you and your colleagues on a remarkable achievement. In less than two years you have reduced this country to a state of coldness, starvation, and misery which the submarines and armed might of Germany could

The following exchange of letters is self-explan-atory We think the second letter takes the prize for understatement. (These letters appeared in the

Understatement . .

England Express.)

not do in six years. . . . " I received this acknowledgement: "Mr. Shinwell is very grateful for you kind message of encourage-ment, which is much appreciated. He has received hundreds of similar letters from all over the country. The crisis is severe, but we shall win through. Mary Hughes, Little Ridge, Silverstone, Towcester, Northants

One Man's Creed .

Bing Crosby was guesting on the Vox Pop pro-gram several weeks ago, but the performer who really stole the show was an 84.year-old gent from way down Maine, a Dr. Coombs. Parks Johnson and Warren Hull, interviewing the country doctor, finally asked him to explain his philosophy of life. "Well," the old-timer started, real schmaltay and poetic (this is not 100% verbatim but it's elose enough), "I want to live my days is such a way so that when I get the call to join the great majority in the far beyond, I will be able to face my fellow-men and say to each and all: 'You go to hell'."

his head. People of marginal mentality and people of genius received the same degrees, and the standards of instruction vary so much from one institution to another that, by itself, the degree means absolutely nothing. The difference between the competence of a per son who graduates at the bottom of

son who graduates at the bottom or his class in a poor institution and that of a man who graduates at the top of his class in a good in-stitution is so pronounced that the degree gives no index of capacity. One might say with complete safety that as the pursuit of college de-

grees for the prestige they bring becomes more general, the number of degrees representing inferior scholasitic accomplishment will in-

crease, In addition, a degree is no bet-ter measure of the character of the person who receives it than of his competence. The same degree is given to the scholar and the social elimber, to a man of highest in-tegrity and the culprit who cheated his way through. As said before, the possession of

a degree is no indication of per-

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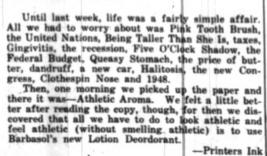
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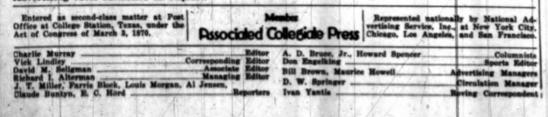


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B. O. or A. A.?

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