

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1947

## Pass or Fail Grading System ...

Many people talk about the present unsatisfactory method of giving letter-grades for college courses, but a group of nineteen Tulane University students have decided to do something about changing the system. Banding themselves together into the "Tulane Student Movement for Investigating the Pass or Fail Grading System," the undergraduates have undertaken a long-range program to determine whether such a satisfactory-or-unsatisfactory grade plan is feasible.

A main reason, the students say, for pursuing the Pass-Fail program is the fact that the present system instills one detrimental attitude into the personalities of a majority of Americans. We are prone to emphasize the reward which follows endeavor, rather than the quality of that effort.

In schools, many students come to emphasize not scholarship and learning but rather the grades which result from scholarship. This carries over into business, where workers lay too much importance on the wages and salaries they receive, and place less value on the quality of their work.

So artificial a motive as an external reward cannot possibly develop the full potentialities of an individual, the group believes.

The Pass-Fail Grading System, which has been widely used in European universities for many centuries and which is used in slightly modified form in many American professional and Graduate schools, will, if introduced, remove emphasis from grades and place it on scholarship.

Not a system which can be put into use all at once, the Pass or Fail grading plan would necessarily need to undergo a transitional period which could last five years or more. It would take that long for all American schools to recognize credentials which would bear no grades except P's and F's.

If several large institutions were to refuse recognition to such a grading system, the plan would necessarily degenerate into either a straight letter-grade record or into a half-and-half muddle. For this reason, the change must be accomplished gradually in the beginning, the Tulane investigators have concluded.

A survey of opinion from the 1946 Tulane faculty showed that 56.7 per cent felt that the introduction of the Pass-or-Fail grades would not prove detrimental to the scholastic standards required of students; 30.8 per cent thought that the plan would be detrimental; and 12.5 per cent were undecided.

As to the effect which the plan would have on Tulane's academic reputation in the eyes of educators at other American univer-

sities, more than half the faculty answering the survey thought that adoption of the system would not detract from Tulane's prestige, less than a third felt that it would detract, and less than a fifth couldn't make up their minds.

Certainly, such a grade system would eliminate much of the personal animosity which can grow up between students when a hair's breadth in scoring a test paper places one a letter above the other, or when a teacher faces the unhappy situation of passing a student who lacks a point or two of the minimum number grade.

This puts the whole course scoring procedure on a basis of "either you know the course or you don't." Hagging over minuses and pluses would be a thing of the past, and education might take on more value than it has in today's degree-mills.

—THE DAILY TEXAN

"WANTED" in the Coatesville (Pa.) Record: "PURE PERSIAN KITTENS, white, light with 30-gal. water tank and fittings.

★  
WOMEN'S FEATURES STILL WAIT EXPANSION Editor & Publisher

★  
TRUMAN AGAIN ENDORSES LIE Pittsburgh (Pa.) Press

★  
AS A jest, Darrell Dryer of the Oakland (Calif.) Post-Enquirer sports staff ran a classified ad saying the trailing Oakland ball club would welcome any sort of help. More than a dozen ball players applied.

★  
Temperance Hits Low of 26 Degrees Columbus (O.) Dispatch

★  
CLASSIFIED columns of the Branford (Ont.) Expositor offered this antique under "Autos for Sale":

★  
HEADLINE in the United Press Red Letter recently said "Pre-War Cars Found Holding Up Well."

★  
CLAY MAY USE TROOPS FOR FOOD Chester (Pa.) Times.

## Half Breton, Half Puritan, Starbuck Rode East in Search of Golden Fleece

By MRS. WILNORA ARNOLD

Readers' Adviser  
YANKEE PASHA by Edison Marshall, Farrar 1947.

Jason Starbuck had a strange career. He rode east from the Adirondacks to seek the Golden Fleece, some Indian scalps in his pocket and a deep longing in his heart. In India he found beautiful, bold Roxana, half-Breton, half-Puritan, a sort of letter day with golden hair and blue eyes. She had survived the Terror of the French Revolution only by a daring mind and an unconventional approach to life. Jason fell under her spell and loved her with all his mountain intensity. He followed her from the Salem harbors to the Harens of Tartary. This is the story of his adventures on his long hunt.

His search took him first to Algiers, then to Constantinople. He became another Christian renegade wearing turban and scimitar, looting and lusty like the rest. His life was at stake hourly, and one false step could easily be his last. He played his part too well, for he became involved with Lilith a beautiful Circassian slave girl—and kismet waited at the end of a long road.

Edison Marshall has written this book in the fine romantic tradition which won such wide acclaim for his BENJAMIN BLAKE. Yankee Pasha is a tale spun by a master story-teller.

★  
DARKER GROWS THE VALLEY by Harry Harrison-Kneil, Bobbs Merrill 1947.

Clinch Valley was one of the first to be settled West of the mountains—before the last guns were fired in the Revolution. Josiah Clinch moved his entire family to what is now the south eastern part of Tennessee. Here he hoped to find the freedom and dignity the Almighty meant for a human soul to have. He left the security of the tidewater country and an ancient feud with his half-brother, David, to find peace and plenty in the wilderness.

But David had seen the fruitful valley too, and valued its potential riches more than the spiritual aspects of the wilderness life. So he, too, sought the valley.

Josiah had just set up his cabin when David appeared to claim the land and produce a Virginia patent to it. Mighty was the wrath of Josiah, but he had not the cleverness or the wit his half-brother had

about laws and land patents. He held his lands by possession and force. The ancient feud was resumed.

So begins a chronicle of five generations—the line of Josiah Clinch of Clinch's Valley. More than a century and a half unroll before it ends. For each generation a woman takes the center of the scene. There was Rachel, Josiah's wife, who died on the journey to the valley; then Charity, her daughter; then Faith; then Hope, and in our own time, Love. These people of stalwart stock followed the Bible names. Their ways were Old Testament ways of violence, strong passion, primitive justice, mercy, fear, plague and death.

This story with its great diversity of incident, its variety of action, its succeeding characters, holds a wonderful unity. Such a work is most ambitious and very difficult to accomplish, yet Mr. Kroll has made this his most notable achievement. It exhibits knowledge and vision and real artistry. Here is a great theme embodied in a special study offered with rich imagination and a worthy dignity. Creative vigor enlivens every page.

## Special TCU Bus Leaves Saturday

A special bus for students will leave for Ft. Worth at 8 a. m., Saturday and return as soon as possible after the game.

Thirty-five persons must be registered to ride the "special" by Friday noon or the bus will not make the trip. \$4.91 is the cost of the round-trip ticket.

Reservations must be made at the Kerrville Bus Station at the North Gate.

The regular buses depart for Ft. Worth as follows:

1:04 a. m.  
5:29 a. m.  
7:49 a. m.  
9:59 a. m.  
2:59 p. m.  
5:19 p. m.  
8:59 p. m.

One-way tickets to Fort Worth are \$4.05. Round-trip tickets cost \$6.90.

## CAMPUS

OPENS 1:00 P. M. 4-11:01

LAST DAY

3 DOZEN STARS



Plus Color Cartoon — News

—Features Start—  
1:30 - 3:40 - 5:45 - 7:50 - 10:00

FRIDAY — SATURDAY

"Welcome Stranger"

Bing Crosby  
Barry Fitzgerald  
Joan Caulfield

—Feature Starts —  
1:10 - 3:20 - 5:30 - 7:40 - 9:50

SAT. PREVUE — 11:00 p.m.

SUNDAY — MONDAY

## "The Song of Scheherazade"

—with—  
Yvonne DeCarlo  
In Technicolor

I want the gal in the picture  
Marilyn  
Montgomery  
drama

## LESTER'S SMART SHOP

in BRYAN



Friday — Saturday

"MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES"  
Plus Second Feature  
"THE SOUTHERNERS"

Sunday — Monday

CLARK GABLE  
DEBORAH KERR  
MGM  
The Hucksters

## PALACE

PHONE 7-8579

TODAY — FRIDAY  
— SATURDAY

MOTHER WORE TIGHTS  
TECHNICOLOR  
BETTY GRABLE  
DAN DAILEY  
with VERA-ELINA, LAMAR TROTTI

## QUEEN

TODAY

THE MOST WHISPERED ABOUT WOMAN OF THE years

Ginger ROGERS  
David NIVEN  
Magnificent Doll  
and Burgess MEREDITH  
with PEGGY WOOD  
HORACE McNALLY  
ROBERT H. BARRAT  
Director of Photography  
Joseph Valentine, A.S.C.  
Produced by JACK H. SHIBBALL



## Galveston Club To Meet Tonight

At a recent meeting of the Galveston Club, Jack Moore was re-elected president. Other officers include Jack Graunard, vice-president; Tom Laros, secretary; and John Christensen, treasurer.

An important meeting of the club will be held tonight after yell practice in Room 129, Academic Building. All men from the Galveston area are cordially invited to attend the meeting.

All Occasions

Every occasion is the right time to send flowers. They lend a festive air—a charm and graciousness to every occasion—big or small.

## AGGIELAND Flower Shop

Ph. 4-1913 North Gate

## RAY'S Snack Bar

TASTY SANDWICHES  
FOUNTAIN DRINKS

Open 11 a.m. — 10:00 p.m.

North Gate

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Call your local Pioneer office for schedule information, fares and space confirmation.

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All Texas is ours

## PIONEER Air Lines

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CLEANING — PRESSING  
WATERPROOFING  
All Kinds of Repair Work and Alterations

## AGGIE CLEANERS

N. Gate We Deliver Phone 4-4554

## Fall Set

... and set for fall is this soft flattering hairdo... with lustrous soft curls headed for the top! Phone 4-9354 for appointment.

## VOGUE BEAUTY SHOP

East Gate

## The Battalion

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