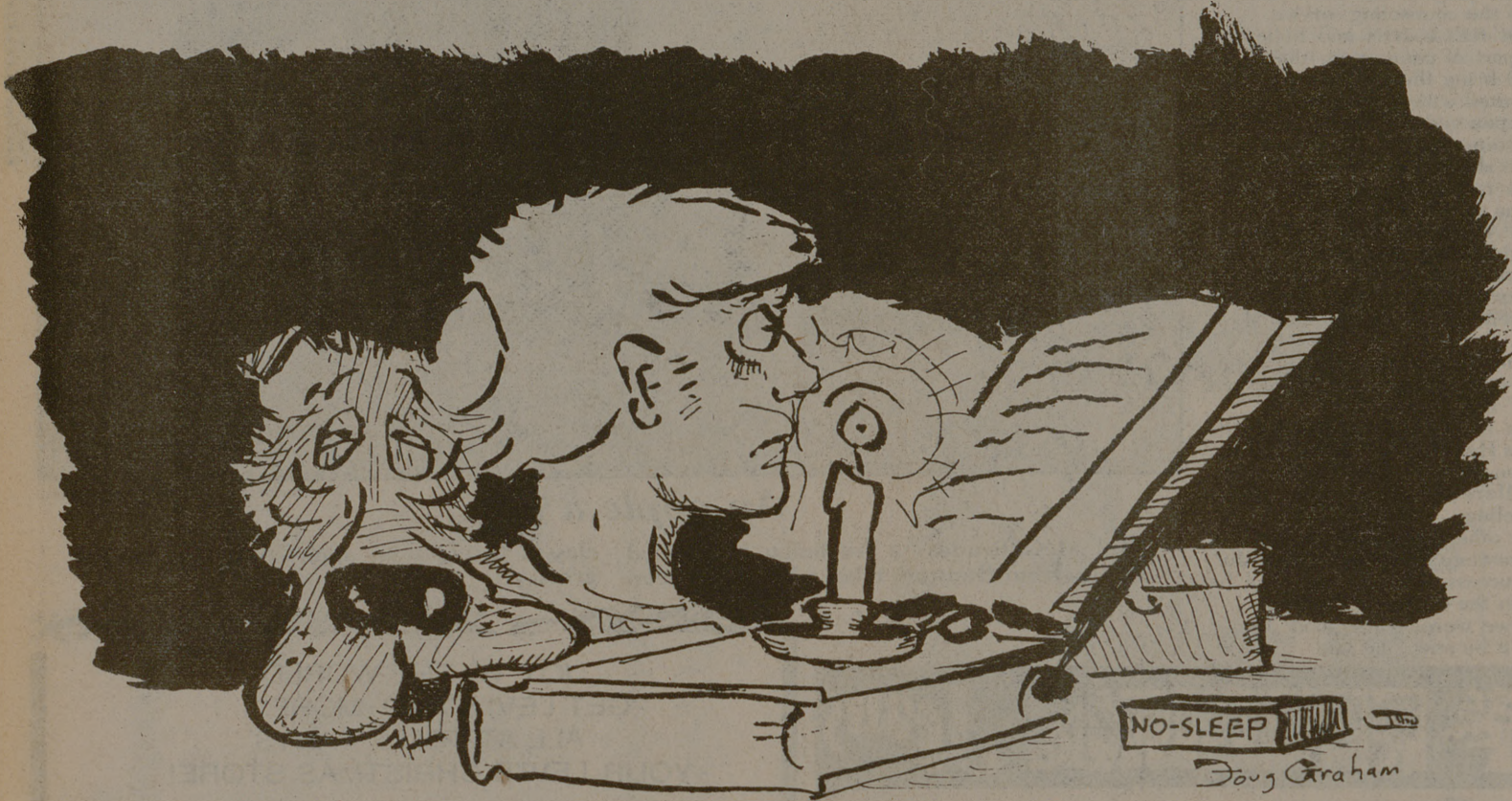


# focus

## Bloodshot eyes, glassy stare, you're incoherent but you know it's here...



# Dead Week

By GLENN WHITLEY

Survival. That's the name of the game during finals. Forget those esoteric ideas about acing your Economics 319 final. Think about staying alive through five torturous days of deprivation (of sleep), degradation (as you beg for Dave's notes), and desperation (when you realize the book you haven't opened all semester is the wrong one).

**Survival Tip No. 1** — Don't drink the water. Really. Drink caffeine. It comes in pleasant flavors; coffee, tea, coke. Stay away from beer and other tasty alcoholic beverages. Not because they're not good for you, but the study light in the Dixie Chicken is a little dim.

**Survival Tip No. 2** — Organize your notes. When you realize you haven't got the notes from September, October, and half of November, and the test is com-

prehensive, find someone else's notes and organize them.

**Survival Tip No. 3** — Exercise. Jog, play racquetball, dodge people wandering around the library glassy-eyed, throw darts at pictures of Battalion sportswriters. Stop studying for a while, though. Work out your body, not your brain.

**Survival Tip No. 4** — Eat. Forget what your mama said about green beans, liver, fresh fruit and milk. Junk food is the only thing that helps the sco-pro-and-fading blues. Doughnuts, tacos, Big Macs, pretzels, pizza, french fries, burritos, potato chips, cream cheese and tabasco dip, popcorn, Nestle's crunch bars and onion

(See DEAD, page 13)

By RUSTY CAWLEY

Monday:

So this is dead week. I should have been dead weeks ago. Thank God my profs are giving me a light load. I mean, all I have to do is study for seven finals, complete five lab practicals, read Beowulf and explain to my editor why I'm not writing.

Lots of laughs.

Tuesday:

No sleep last night. Maybe it's the 12 tablets of No-Doz in my bloodstream. My roommate spent the wee hours riding around the apartment on his skateboard. "Banzai!" he screamed, diving into Scuffy's litter box.

I spent the night with "The Development of Cricket Gentilia During the Mesoplaphonic Era." Just before dawn, we snuck around the parking lot, stuffing potatoes in the exhaust pipes of our neighbors' cars. Chicken noodle soup and Cheerios for breakfast.

Wednesday:

An evening at the library. Term paper due tomorrow. Will title it "Daniel Boone, Bella Abzug and the Oedipus Complex." If God had been a college student, he would have rested for six days and pulled an all-nighter. Dead week exhaustion is as certain for an Aggie as death and taxes. And George Woodard on third and short.

Thursday:

Seventy-two hours without sleep. My room is lit with green gnomes threatening to force-feed me shredded wheat. I hid under the bed until my roommate assured me they weren't there. "Come on, he screamed. "There aren't any gnomes out here, three giant red bunnies who want to challenge your game of handball."

What can I say? I better not say anything or I put me away.

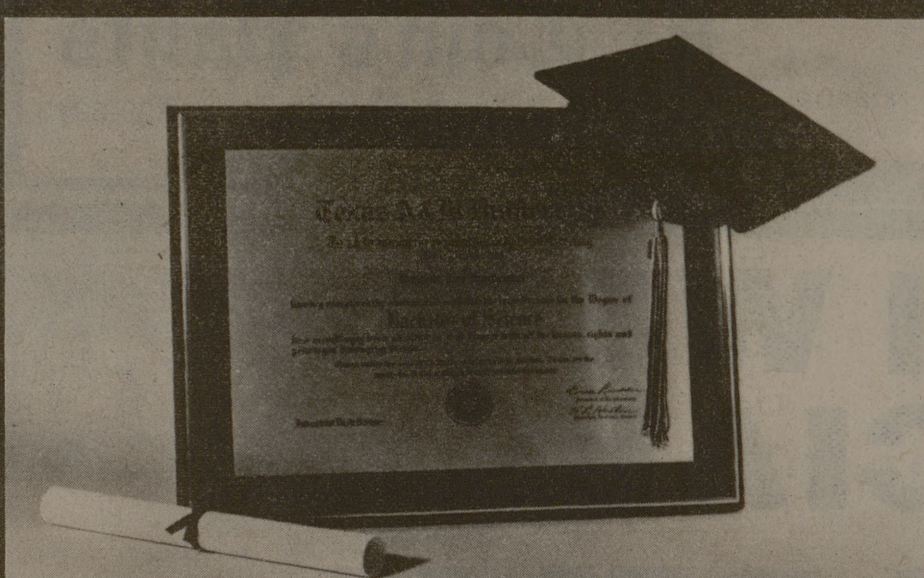
Ventured out of the house long enough to turn in English paper. I changed the title to "Gone With the Wind and its Effects on the Carter Administration." My prof took one look at it and said, "This is fine, couldn't you have typed it on something other than Disneyland stationery?" Despair.

Friday:

The week is over. I wore my old penny loafers cause I didn't have the energy to tie my shoelaces. My roommate is in the backyard shooting chimera on our tree with his .38. He claims to be the real Sam. I don't argue, though I should. Maybe he put me out of my misery.

# LIVING & DYING

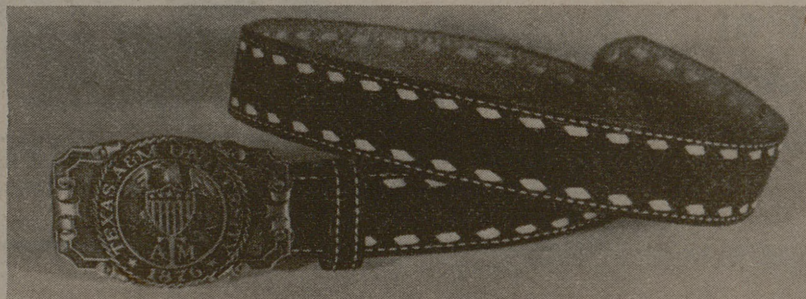
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