

The Perennial Plague

In three short weeks, the perennial plague at the University, final exams, will be with us.

We are going on the assumption that the trials of final test time are experienced not only by students, but by teachers alike. True, students have to take them; teachers have to make them up and correct them.

Several student newspapers have decried the final exam period. Among the criticism is:

"There are no definite restrictions on instructors as to whether or not the last test will be a comprehensive final or an equally weighted test. Because the testing policy is inconsistent, the students often are faced with extra headaches during the waning days of each semester." (Purdue Exponent.)

"Whatever victory may be earned in this period pales before the fallacies of the comprehensive examination system and the effort poured into it is usually a useless venture. They are totally valueless and prove nothing. Generally, they are nothing more than exercises in mental regurgitation." (Daily Kansan.)

"Under the present system students schedules are filled right up to the last minutes with regular class assignments. We do have one day off between classes and finals to do at least some preliminary studying." (Washburn University Review.)

We could add to the list of criticisms of a finals exam period. We agree that usually they mean nothing more than the ability to cram facts and sometimes slightly coherent principles into a blue book. Retention value is usually nil two days or two weeks later.

And this is a part of our education—the A's, B's, C's, D's and F's we get. And this is a part of our instructor's work — giving those same A's, B's, etc.

We would like to cry, "Down with the tradition of final exams." But how to beat the system? Usually one must have a better one to suggest.

We feel that a better system in the first place would be one that is uniform—that is, all courses would either have comprehensive exams, or all would have unit tests. We believe the unit tests would be the best—a student's performance would have to, of necessity, be consistent—he would not have the final to rely on to make or break him.

Unit tests would also help eradicate the barbarian traditions of all-night cramming, No-Doz, students completely shot, both physically and mentally. They would facilitate an instructor's last minute grading.

They would help turn a heinous custom into a livable period. They would aid a student's being judged on his desire to learn rather than his ability to parrot.

Another Viewpoint—

I Shall Not Pass . . .

From The Daily Illini

And it came to pass,
Early in the morning toward the last
day of the semester,
There arose a great multitude smiting
the books and wailing.

And there was much weeping and
gnashing of teeth,
For the day of judgment was at hand.
And they were sore afraid, for they had
left undone
Those things which they ought to have
done,
And there was no help for it.

And there were many abiding in the dorm
Who had kept watch over their books by
night,
But it availed them naught.

But some there were who rose peacefully,
For they had prepared themselves the
way
And made straight paths of knowledge.
And these were known
As wise burners of the midnight oil.
And to others they were known as "curve
raisers."

And the multitude arose
And ate a hearty breakfast.
And they came into the appointed place
And their hearts were heavy within them.

And they had come to pass,
But some to pass out.

And some of them
Repented of their riotous living and
bemoaned their fate.
But they had not a prayer.

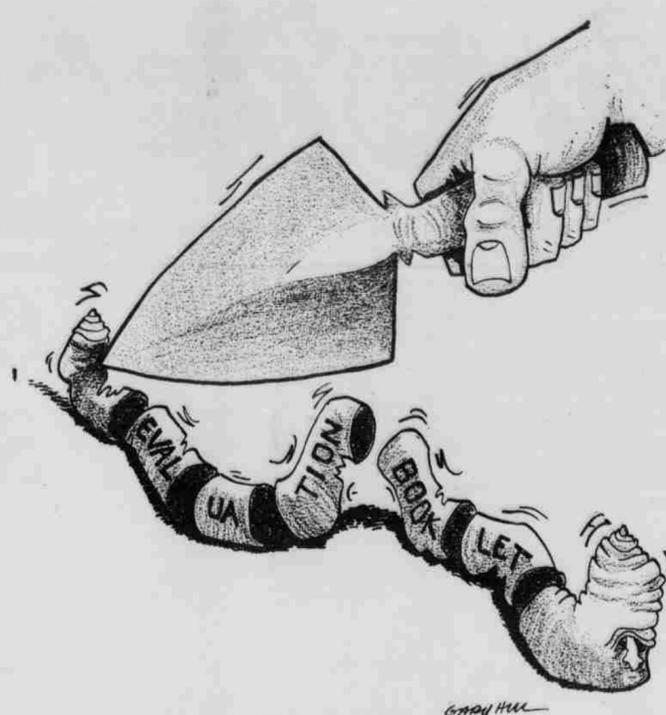
And at the last hour there came among
them
One known as the instructor; and they
feared exceedingly.

He was of the diabolical smile,
And passed papers among them and went
his way.
And many and varied
Were the answers that were given,
For some of his teachings had fallen,
among fertile minds.
Others had fallen among the fallows,
While others had fallen flat.

And some there were who wrote for one
hour,
Others for two;
But some turned away sorrowful, and
many of these
Offered up a little bull
In hopes of pacifying the instructor.
And these were the ones who had not a
prayer.

And when they finished,
They gathered up their belongings
And went their way quietly, each in his
own direction,
And each one vowing unto himself in
this manner:

"I shall not pass this way again."
—Author unknown



That thing still wiggling? Well, maybe it'll take Dead Week seriously.

Sorry About That!

Being a compendium of farce, humor and comment, selected arbitrarily by the Editor . . .

Did you notice our first nomination for a teacher for Outstanding Nebraskan? He's leaving the University, of course.

Historical Note of the Day: In 1845, Aorta, Mongolia, The Great Wall of China is leased for billboards. In 1952, University of Nebraska, the Mortar Boards serenade at living units. Inby Grace receives the M.B. Monotone Award. Also on this date, in 1945 at the University, Innocents vote in their thirteenth member, Horatio Zilch.

The new ASUN senators have a little work to do before they go to work. We hear some of them don't know that meetings are held on Wednesdays.

Thought for the Week: We'll all be dead during Dead Week.

It's time now that students are being initiated into their new clubs and honoraries.

We want to commend the new Kosmet Klub members. They quacked like ducks admirably through the Daily Nebraskan office yesterday.

Note to the Ponies: the Racing Form will appear this Wednesday and Thursday. You should be interested, by odds.

I WANT YOU

Spring is sprung,
The grass is riz,
I wonder where
The draft office is.

An editorial in the Colorado State University Collegian says that the average Independent there "could really care less about what is going on around him and about the unlimited opportunities that could be at his disposal . . . Apathy has become synonymous with the Independent."

We are happy that is not generally true here.

Ah, the trials of being elected to ASUN. For some of the candidates, it must have been kind of rough. After all, they only had an expense allotment of \$40.

Course we hear billboards come cheap these days.

The new senior staff has been selected for the Daily Nebraskan and the Cornhusker. It's funny how every year there are some young bright kids who think they can replace really good editors.

To the junior girls who have received Ivy Day Court invitations, we're Sorry About That!

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CAMPUS OPINION

Phil Boardman Commended

Dear Editor,
Words cannot express what we want to say here. But, without being overly sentimental, we, the men of Abel XI, would like to commend Phil Boardman, for a splendid campaign. We are proud of him. We want the whole University, Greek and Independent alike, to be proud of him.
He waged a clean, well-organized, vigorous campaign for the second vice-presidency. And he lost by a mere 39 votes. For this he deserves some recognition. We do this here. We are only sorry that ASUN will be lacking his services next year.

Men of Abel XI

Campaign 'A Good One'

Dear Editor,
The campaign is over and it has been a good one. Many issues have been raised by all candidates on how to make this a better University, and if there is anything all of us have agreed upon, it is the goal of making NU as good a University as possible.
Terry Schaaf has been elected by a large majority of students who respect his leadership ability. I congratulate Terry on his hard-earned victory. His past record indicates he will be effective and responsible as the new ASUN president.
Also Dave Snyder brought many good ideas before us and we look forward to working with him next year. Last, but not least, candidates Phil Boardman and Kelley Baker helped make this a fun campaign for me personally.
But we should not forget one of the biggest winners in this election has been the students and the University as a whole. With the quality of all candidates elected I think student interest and involvement in ASUN will grow.

Steve Abbott

Letters Policy
Unsigned letters to the editor will not be printed. However, a pen name will be used, upon the writer's request. Letters critical of individuals must be signed with the writer's name. Address letters to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 51.

Closet Case

By FRANK PARTSCH

Thirteen flazno wird crung et deblabical hansmire wor vert et. cetera six days runtworthy hence.

All curd gluck glucky sentis pentsi quanker Schaafgreene. Laugho murggrab ingots, flamma geetsill ora Boredmann. aber maise.

Dethink, detaik, degut, really naught for cathodebokers. But zillerschischenbaumer et wommers et whungers losenreich zith. Lost soies dismaidank et dark.

Willwon't first be Larsoner willhe be atall? But some-will naught.

Wir mussen eins nehmen. Flazno, flazno, flazno. Loose failures funch et crunch and munch. But SOME didnoter didthey fail.
Letterschmetter, donnerwetter, schmittelschaaft.

Somewillnaught. But whee. Whee will he?

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