

# - A DAY AT THE ZOO - Exam Hysteria Grips Student

By Bob Funk

Emerald Columnist

Out in the mountain fastnesses of Approaching Hysteria, where most of the landscape was devoted to flora and fauna and effervescent streams cascading from mossy rock to mossy rock with gurgling sounds, a Student woke up in the middle of the night with a cold, clammy feeling.

Anyone was like to wake up with a cold, clammy feeling in Approaching Hysteria, because there was a funny kind of cold clams that crawled into bed with you unless you had a zipper for the top. But this was a figurative cold - clammy feeling.

Perhaps, the Student thought to himself (and this is not in quotes because he was thinking it inside, which is not quotish), I am having a sudden Fit of Declensions. And he took a special gritty powder that his Grandma had given him on Groundhog Day



that was supposed to be good for Fits of Declensions. It didn't do anything but settle, though. And then he thought perhaps he was having an attack of Tort, and he gargled with some charged branch water, but as usual swallowed it all about halfway through, so he had to give that up.

And then he remembered. It was about to be Finals. And Finals was something that if you had a choice of sitting on a Bunsen Burner for twelve hours until well browned or taking Finals, you would sit on a Bunsen Burner and laugh heartily all the time you were browning. Finals was the time you tried to remember Pi equals 3. Blank-spot-in-my-notes, and the Cosine of a Whoosis is determined by finding the square root of Your Own True Love and then laughing hysterically.

He remembered that he had gone to see his professor about finals. He had found the professor in the library, filed under Miscellany, Unbound, by the Dewey Decimal System.

"How do you figure out if a poem is written by Shelley, or by Keats, or if it was just accidental?"

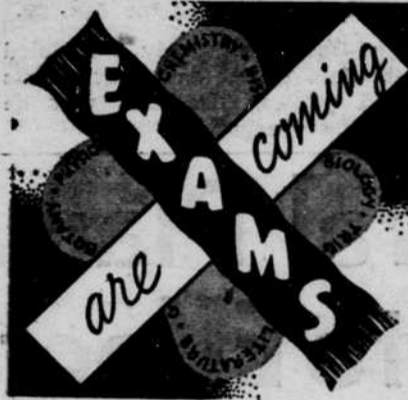
"We have to be intellectually honest," the professor said, chewing abstractly on a verb. "It's all relative, nowadays. No black and white, just shades of gray. It isn't like the old days when Joan of Arc and Teddy Roosevelt and Charles Carrol of Carrolton were around. You knew good from bad, Keats and Shelley in those days. But now all the old gang's gone, and it's all Relativity."

"But how do you tell—" "Keats from Shelley." The professor sighed. "I always look at the top of the page—it tells in my book."

"But on the final?" "Intellectual honesty always wins," the professor said. "I read that, I think."

Which left the Student feeling like there was penicillin or something growing on the walls of his stomach. Finals. The word enveloped and over-

(Continued on page seven)



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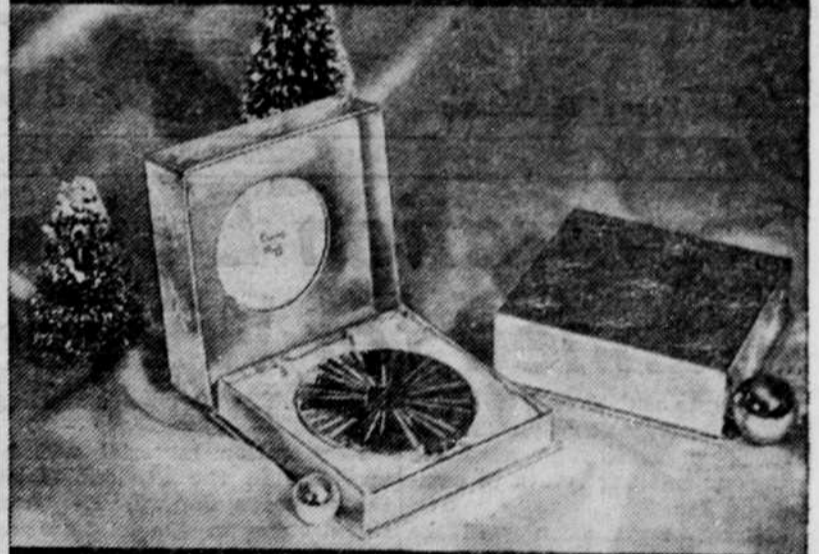
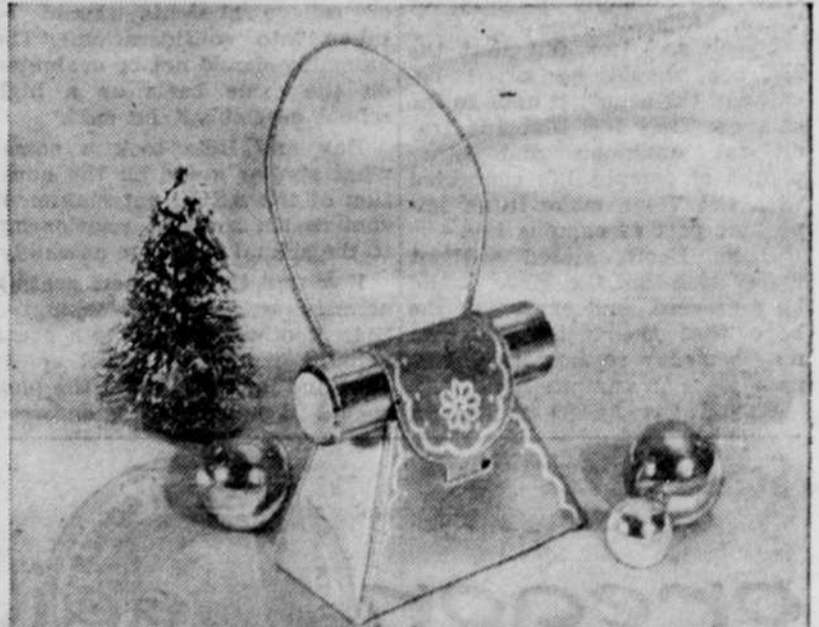
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