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*Riding the Range*

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Football Coach Snorter Luster and Athletic Director (and line coach) Jap Haskell do some deep pondering as they watch football practice.

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## Why Not a College Entrance System?

EVERY September, thousands of high school graduates enrol hopefully in the University of Oklahoma and the various state colleges, with the bright expectation of eventually receiving a college degree. But before the year is finished, hundreds of these who enrolled so hopefully drop out of school, unable to make the grade scholastically.

The number who are permitted to enrol, but later prove to be either unprepared or unfit for college education is shamefully large. The waste in lost time and needless expense and damage to the failing student's morale is incalculable. It would be far better if he never had enrolled.

College officials privately have admitted that this situation called for action. But there has been one hitherto insurmountable reason why very little has been done about it. This reason is that if one college in the state started a set of rigid entrance examinations, and excluded unprepared or unfit students, some other college might eagerly welcome those very same students for the sake of increased enrolment figures and a statistical argument for larger appropriations.

Now, however, there is in sight an effective means of attacking this problem. The establishment of the State Regents for Higher Education, with specific power to co-ordinate all

the state institutions of higher education and prescribe scholastic standards, has provided an agency that can sponsor a uniform system of college entrance examinations for all high school seniors who want to enter *any* state institution of higher education.

If standard examinations can be worked out through co-operation of all the colleges and the high schools themselves, with the co-ordinating board's office as a clearing house and sponsor, it should be possible to establish a perfectly fair system of examinations that would apply to the prospective students of all the state colleges. A high school graduate passing the examination would be eligible to enter the University or any state college; if he failed the examination, he would not be permitted to enter any of the colleges. Thus no particular institution would have to bear the political pressure that might result from the exclusion of certain students.

A system of this kind would have a two-fold advantage. It would keep the unfit students from ever enrolling in college, and avoid the consequent grief and economic waste. And it would also serve to call attention to some bright high school graduates who might never attend college at all unless given scholarships or other encouragement.