The Pledge saves the fellow who can’t say No to a crowd.

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An Almost-er.

So I said to the Prof, You wouldn’t flunk me with a dirty 69, wouldja?

And he said, Why not?

And I said, W-h-y n-o-t.......

And then he said, By the way, McGutzky, what was that paper you were tearing up during the examination?

I thought he had something like that in his craw because his eye kept floating around my vicinity all the time I was writing.

I said, Tearing up what paper?

And he said, I guess you know, all right.

And I said, Oh yeah, I remember. This’s th’ way it was, Prof.

When I first saw those questions you threw at us, I got a little panicky and started writing without thinking. You’ll have to admit yourself that those questions were tough enough to make a fellow panicky.

It just happened that I wrote a page and a half on the first question and then got into a snag. When I went back and looked I found I wasn’t answering your question at all.

Then I said to myself if I cross out all this that I’ve written, he’ll probably read under my criss-cross and get the impression that I don’t know my stuff.

And I couldn’t erase because I was writing in ink.

So I just tore out the sheet.

And he said, Oh, I see, but kinda funny like.

But I said, What about that 69, Prof?

And he said, The 69 sticks. It’s just what your paper deserves, what you deserve, McGutzky. You’ve always been an almost-er in my class. I ask you a question and you almost give me the right answer. I give you an exam, and you almost pass.

That means, McGutzky, that you’ve only been studying enough to almost get by.

When you get out into life, McGutzky, you’ll almost get by, too, unless someone wakens you up now. Let this 69 remind you to get things right, not just almost right.

So there y’are, Stooge, I’m an almoster with a 69!

If they give me a break or two in some of the other exams, I’ll almost be able to stay here for the next semester.

But they’re all over now, Stooge, so what th’ heck!

PRAYERS: Deceased, grandfather of Vince (Morrissey) and Al (St. Ed’s) McAlloon; uncle of Bob Kelly (Morrissey); friend of Steve Finan (Lyons). Ill, Prof, Myers.

Six special intentions.