

Poor condition of Hensel Park criticized

Editor:

I am writing in reference to a neglected tract of land north of the Texas A&M campus, which extends west from College Avenue to Texas Avenue. The area of land is known as Hensel Park.

Texas A&M University students, faculty, and staff are the only official users of Hensel Park, even though this policy is not enforced. The park is currently under the direction of the YMCA. Group picnics of up to 300 people can be scheduled through the YMCA. Smaller student or family gatherings are usually not scheduled.

In case you are unfamiliar with Hensel Park, as many people on this campus are, I can assure you that the park is in a dilapidated condition. The Physical Plant Department has assumed responsibility for maintaining the park, however no official funds, staff, or time are devoted to the park. The park is mowed only when other jobs on campus are completed.

Currently Hensel Park is covered with litter consisting of paper, beer cans, and other assorted articles.

Many of the picnic tables are broken. The grass is usually unmowed and there is no controlled use of automobiles. Automobile owners drive wherever they please, thus adding to an already serious erosion problem.

I am sure that University officials are aware of the potential that Hensel Park has to offer. It could be a place of beauty and relaxation. Its natural setting could be ideal for field study. It has great recreation potential.

A committee of faculty and students has been established to investigate the potential that Hensel Park has to offer. Hopefully, they will soon recommend that Hensel Park be developed into a place of pride on the A&M campus.

Martin E. Glass

Editor:

I would like to express my opinion on a subject that I feel very strongly about.

This past semester I had a project in a park-planning class the task of redeveloping Hensel Park.

Throughout the course, I was truly surprised to find out how little students know about the park and how

Listen Up

little the ones that know about it care.

It was shocking to find out that the university has used Hensel Park for more than a quarter of a century, but as of this date has spent no money on establishing and developing the park or even providing maintenance funds for its upkeep. Present facilities have come mainly from outside money donated to development or from donation of these facilities. The Y.M.C.A. has played the greatest part in administration and development of the park, but lacks the money to be effective on its own.

It would seem that in today's situation, where our campus is developing so rapidly, the students would greatly desire to have a nice place to spend their leisure time in a setting such as could be provided if Hensel Park were redeveloped properly.

Our class used an opinion survey passed out to a limited number of students, which by no means adequately represented the total

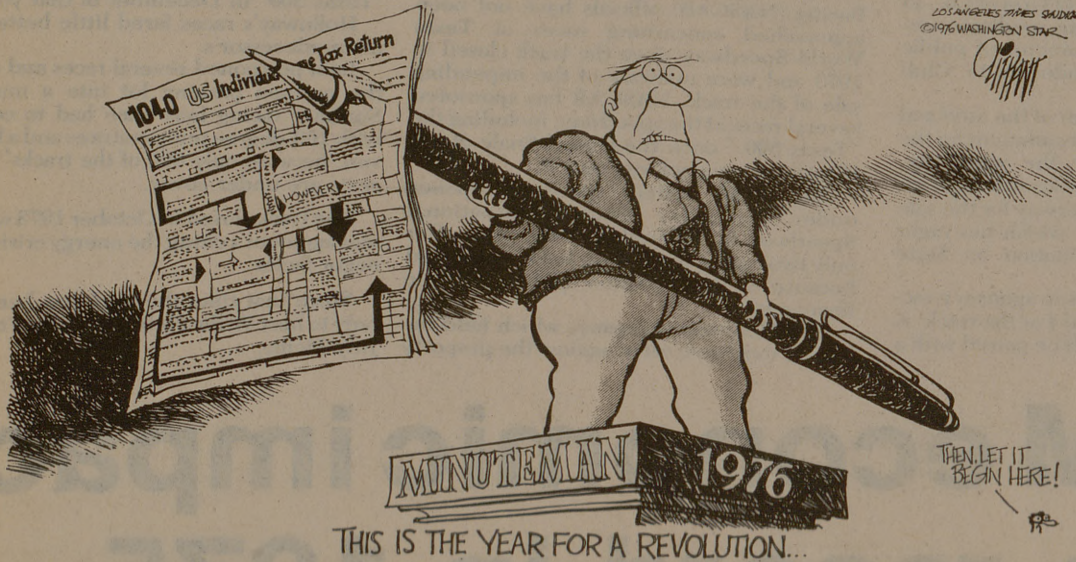
student body, to find out their views on the park. Most respondents were relatively unfamiliar with the park, but said they would be in favor of funding the redevelopment and upkeep of it.

I feel that it is the responsibility of the university to develop Hensel Park so that it could be enjoyed by all and reflect the high quality of our university. It is truly a shame that the park is so run down and caters mainly to groups. It could be a real showcase with a little effort. We have available many departments that could cooperate to reach this goal. Included among these departments is the Recreation & Parks Department

in the College of Agriculture, which is among the top in the nation. I see no reason why the administrators of the university have made no attempt to utilize these departments.

I hope in the near future our class project will help lay the ground work for Hensel Park, but without the pressure and support of the student body for a better park this probably won't happen. I would also like to encourage you to support this project in the future and try to encourage the students to support it, and hopefully future students will have a place to spend their leisure time enjoyably.

Jeff C. Broad



The Battalion

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods. September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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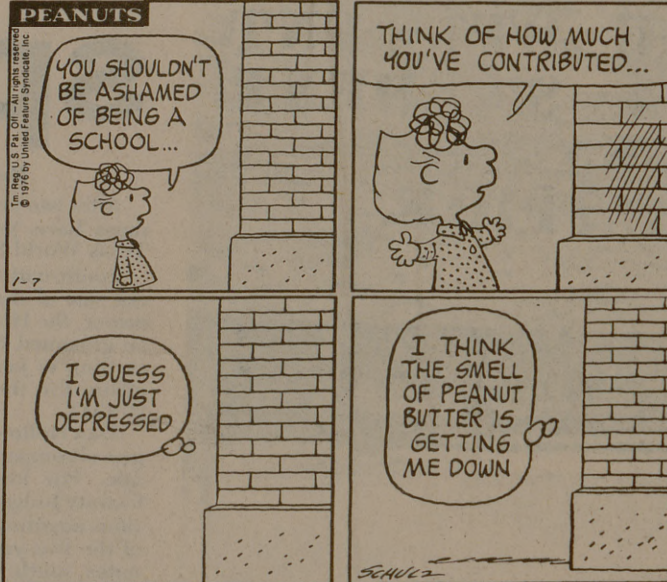
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