



### Batt Commentary Best Grading Yet

Texas Southmost College, a school about which few people have ever heard, has an innovative grading system this year under which a student can reject low grades for class and laboratory work.

The purpose of the program is to place responsibility directly on the student to decide for himself whether or not he wants to retain a particular grade on his permanent record. The plan could be implemented at our University with adequate study and preparation by student leaders and administrators. This is provided that we can get the Registrar's Office to mail grade reports to only the right people—as we were told before midterm that this would be done.

The Brownsville college's new system gives students the right to petition for rejection of specific semester grades and request the substitutes of a "non-credit" notation that will not lower a student's overall grade point average.

Students must petition for rejection of a grade within 14 days after the end of semester. Also, students can enroll initially for non-credit status or petition for it later. We have something similar to this with the pass-fail system. However, students can't have the grade later if it is good and their minds change.

Another plus for the new system is that students can enroll in elective courses without the threat of a low grade lowering their grade point average.

In graduate school or in medicine and law, a single grade requirement can exclude a student from admission. The TSC system will allow all students to take a subject again without having the earlier, lower grade on his record. For instance, why should a student be saddled with grades he or she may have received under the duress of a family tragedy?

Under the system we have, if a student fails or withdraws failing from a course, the hours are figured in with the rest of his grades, even if they were unnecessary electives for a degree. Students have to enroll in the course again to erase the F or WF notation.

For vet students and those with medicine and law goals, this non-credit system would surely be a feather in their cap if they changed their minds along the way in planning for their futures. They would, of course, have to answer all other qualifications to proceed.

The development of the idea should be watched by our administrators and students—it could have valuable effects on the futures of our graduates and post-graduates.

## Lease Line— Rent Increase Announcement Should Follow State Laws

By BARB SEARS

The following questions come from cases which the Fair Housing Commission is currently handling.

**Question:** My husband and I have been living in Southgate Village which is federally subsidized and thus has reduced rent for low-income people. I have recently gotten a job and the rent will subsequently be adjusted. The manager said she would begin charging the increased rent on Dec. 1, although the lease states that when the tenant leaves or when the landlord raises the rent, there must be one month's notice given. Considering this, can the manager then raise rent in two weeks? Is the federal government required to follow state and local laws?

**Answer:** The manager cannot legally raise your rent on Dec. 1. Texas law requires that the rental rates of written leases be maintained throughout the period designated on the lease, but allows rent to be raised in oral contracts following one month's notice. In your case, and in the case of university married student housing,

the special clause in your lease requires the landlord to give you 30 days notice before raising the rent. The lease is a legal contract and is binding on both parties, so your manager has no choice but to follow its stipulations.

Since the Federal Government itself has no equivalent laws concerning housing, its subsidized housing comes under the jurisdiction of state and local laws. It is just as though an individual from another state-owned apartments in Bryan-College Station. That non-resident would still be required by the city to uphold the local housing codes.

If you find the new rental rates will be too high for you, you would be wise to take advantage of that one-month notification clause. You can notify your manager that you plan to move out at the same time at which you are notified by her that your rent will increase in one month. This way, you will completely avoid the increased rental rates, and you will have one month to find a new place to live.

**Question:** My roommate and I are freshmen, but because of the limited dorm space in the fall and

the shortage of apartments in this area at the beginning of school, we were allowed to live in Southgate Village which is actually federal housing for low-income families. Our lease will expire in January and the manager has told us that we can stay there but she will have to raise the rent. Is there any way we can keep our current low rates?

**Answer:** No, legally, after the lease expires, the landlord can raise the rental rates.

Southgate Village should be commended for being so responsive to the University's needs and for making exceptions to allow several groups of unmarried students to live there as the local apartments became filled to capacity. The Spring semester should see this area with about 90 per cent of the apartment occupied, versus the near 100 per cent occupancy of this semester. It should not be necessary to have Southgate Village still allow unmarried students to live there. The space would be more appropriately and more justifiably filled by low-income families and should at least be made available to them.

# 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.

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The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$8.50 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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# Listen Up BAC Actions Called Cowardly

Editor:

I am a black graduate student in the department of biology, and I would like to express my disgust with the vicious statements and cowardly actions of the representatives of the Black Awareness Committee. I am not a member of the BAC and know little about their activities, however it is clear that they did a poor job of research in gathering information for their ill-advised press conference.

I have been a student at several universities (both black and white), have been a member of the faculty at three Black colleges, and have served as a graduate teaching assistant at TAMU for two and one half years. While one might argue that the policies and environments of other institutions are irrelevant to the problems here, I feel that they provide excellent parameters for assessing success. With regard to channels of communication and overall academic environment, I believe TAMU to be far superior to any of the institutions with which I have been associated.

I feel that the committee's allegation that TAMU is "a racist institution" with "an unsuitable environment for the education of tomorrow's leader" to be irresponsible and unexcusable. The time has long since come when the "BLACK BROTHERS" stop holding today's administrators accountable for yesterday's oppressions. I would like the university community to know that the statements of the BAC in no way express the unanimous opinions of the black student body.

David W. Washington

Editor:

I find it interesting that this paper considers it a personal insult that the black student leaders did not take the time to find out what Dr. John Koldus and the rest of the system could do

for them before they held their news conference. Considering the University's past reaction time to black ideas, I would say the BAC was justified in producing all the stimulus it could. This paper and the rest of the University should be taking as a personal insult, the fact that the

leaders of BAC did not feel the system would help them unless pressured, not that they did not bare themselves to it. And, if the BAC does not ring with organization, I would not be too critical; it resounds with ideas (which from reading your paper would appear to be more than the Stu-

dent Government does).

The demands of BAC, as reported in the Battalion, seem pretty much justified, although do concede that some of the ideas about quotas smack of a merical chauvinism. Over all, think that what the BAC has demanded should be adopted; adopted, not with the attitude of succumbing to radical demands but with the idea of moving Aggie into the mainstream of contemporary thought.

John D. McFarlin

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Editor:

On behalf of the Student Body of Texas A&M University, I wish to express my deep disappointment in the performance of the Rice University Band during half-time at last Saturday game. I felt that the performance was in extremely poor taste for a University hosting a South west Conference game.

Randy Ross, President  
TAMU Student Body

Copies of this were sent to Rice University President, Newman Hackerman and Student Body President, Douglas Applegate. Hackerman offered his apologies to Dr. Jack Williams Monday telephone. We expect that "The Mob" won't be doing what it did Saturday to the Aggies for awhile.

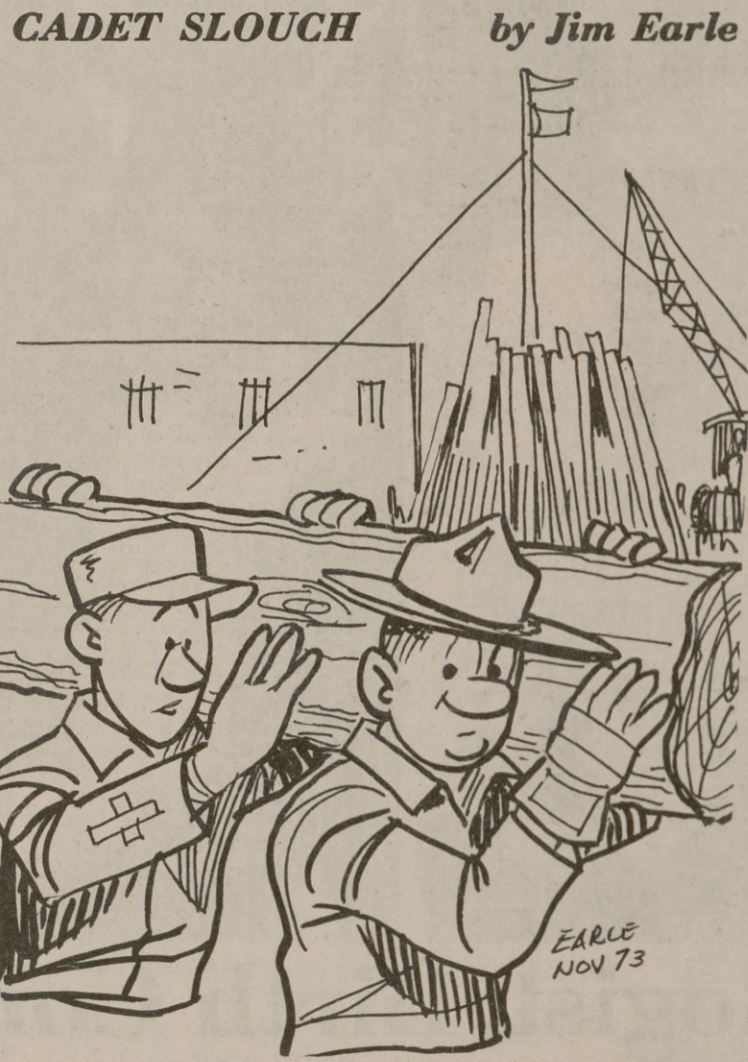
—Ed.

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Editor:

I was astonished by the behavior of the Aggies at the Rice football game and for the first time in my life, ashamed to be an Aggie. Granted, the Rice band's show could be in poor taste (I do not say it was), but for Aggie supporters to cheer madly when a fool attacks members of the Rice band, and later to attempt to mob the band, is worse than immature—it is sick and

(See Listen Up, page 3)



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