

Chairmen can be *The 'moped': a motorized bike* males or females

Listen Up

Editor:
I noticed in Tuesday's Battalion that you don't like the word "chairman", because you think it carries a masculine connotation. I also noticed that you consider the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as the authority of usage. Now, I hope you will take time to look in your Merriam-Webster at the definition of "chairman", or take my word for what it says. "The presiding officer of a meeting or an organization or committee" could be a male or a female.

David Anderson

Invalid ramps

Editor:
I would like to commend Texas A&M University for the job it has done in the past few years, and is continuing to do, to help the handicapped student get around campus.

There are an increasing number of disabled parking spaces on campus, all of which are wider than average to allow people in wheelchairs easy access. Wheelchair ramps are being added to buildings which have not had them before. And, many sidewalks on campus now have curb to street slopes, also allowing easier wheelchair movement.

This is great — the result of much thoughtful planning. But it is all of nothing unless the other students here at Aggieland are more thoughtful themselves.

A disabled parking space isn't

worth much when it is filled by the car of someone perfectly capable of walking a little extra distance. It is meant for a person who is NOT capable of that.

Wheelchair ramps are to relieve people in chairs or on crutches the hassle of going up or down steps. But even that might be easier than dodging the bicycles that are invariably parked on the ramps.

When all this construction is finished, A&M will have a beautiful campus. Let's make it beautiful for all the students, and give the handicapped a little extra consideration.

David Roop

Thanks

Editor:
I just would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you Fighting Texas Aggies for the tremendous warm welcome that you gave myself and all the other ole' Army yell-leaders at midnight yell practice and at the S.M.U. game! Also I want to thank the present yell leaders for giving me a chance to say a few ole' Army words at yell practice after the game on the steps of the Y. And a very special thanks to the fish of Devil D, F-L, Sq. 2, and all the others who helped take me to the fish pond after yell practice. That was only my second trip to the fish pond and it was over five years in coming, but it was well worth the wait! There's no greater people than the Aggies! All the way to the Cotton Bowl and just beat the hell out of everyone that gets in our way! Gig 'em Aggies.

David Hoelscher
(Yell leader, 1970)

Associated Press

It looks like a fat bicycle or an undemolished motorcycle, but it's really the motorized bicycle or "moped," a machine fast becoming the newest American transportation rage.

One must pedal the moped in order to get it started, but once in action, it can obtain speeds as high as 30 miles per hour with the aid of a small one-to-two-horsepower engine.

Long a practical and popular method of transit in parts of Europe, Bermuda and the Caribbean, the motorized bike only became legal for sale in this country last year when the federal government issued safety standards. So far 10 states have legalized the moped for use on their highways.

Enthusiasts say the federal move was triggered by the national energy crunch, the faltering economy and concerns for cleaner air.

"Fifty per cent of working people in America live within five miles of work. The motorized bicycle is the most feasible, cheapest way of motorized transportation known to humanity," said J. David Jones.

Jones is a somewhat prejudiced source; he's president of American Garelli East, an Italian bike manufacturer, but if the booming motorcycle industry is any indicator, mopeds should have plenty of market appeal.

Mopeds weigh between 56 and 100 pounds, get up to 220 miles per gallon and cost between \$300 and \$499. They're also quieter than motorcycles and automobiles, supporters say.

"Every time I ride a motorized bike I smile," said Mark Rosenker of the Motorized Bicycle Association, an industry trade group. "I never met anyone who didn't giggle a little bit and smile. It's fun to ride and I can fill up my gas tank for 37 cents."

Aggieoons

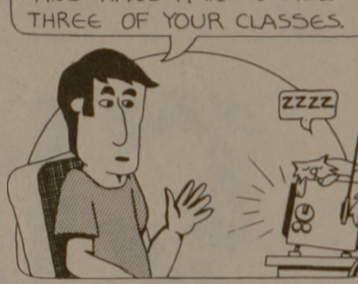
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SHEER GENIUS!



Brad Foster

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