

Student attitude. "The idea used to be you're not an Aggie if you've got good grades of

By KATHY HENDERSON

Dr. R.C. Potts sat comfortably in his chair while contemplating the major changes in student attitude over the years.
"The idea used to be you're not an

Aggie if you've got good grades," he said in all seriousness. He said, "Anyone with good grades was called an 'egghead'." Dr. Potts has been with Texas A&M University since 1936 and is now the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture here.

Students study more now — they respect academic achievement much more now than they did 25 years ago, he said.
"Students accept the fact as a

group that academic pursuits are pretty high on the list," Potts said.

The University is getting better quality students than ever before, he said. The overall high school average

grade for Seniors planning to attend this campus next fall Semester is 89, Potts explained. It takes a lot of students with grades over 90 to produce that kind of an average, he added

As the university grows larger will the atmosphere become more and more impersonal? Dr. Potts says no. With an increase in students, more professors will be hired, he said. It will be up to both students and teachers to adjust to new conditions,

Dr. Potts also said he feels the student-teacher relationship is top priority. This is the reason he de signed the Agriculture 101 class, he explained. It gives the Agriculture students a chance to ask questions and get to know someone in their department besides the advisor, he

'When we had 200 incoming freshmen in the program I could call them in and get acquainted. Now we have 700. Ag. 101 is my personal effort to relate to all the students," he said

Dr. Potts also shared his personal opinion on why Texas A&M is so appealing to today's students and their parents.

He said that the 1960's when cam-

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the country, Texas A&M stood its ground. The fact that A&M hadn't lost a class was widely publicized, he said. Potts said he believed this factor made parents begin to look longingly at this school as a good place to send their sons.

When non-compulsory corps was made effective, more sons were will-

puses were being disrupted all over ing to attend this university, Potts

Then girls were admitted to the university, he said. Only a few were admitted at first, though, he said.

"President Rudder was a smart man. He didn't open it up all at once, just a little at a time. This gave the former students a chance to get used to it," Potts explained.

former students most lean drastic change had a secre deep in their hearts: "I'll see ; daughter down there.'

Sports is also a drawing Texas A&M, he added. Sports does more to h students together than pranything else," he said.

Student records privat

proaching, Texas A&M registrar Robert A. Lacey reminds students

Kept on them at A&M.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students and former students of legal age may look at most their record.

The law also well a students and former students of legal age may look at most their record.

Students may be previous school attended.

Grade reports — probably the hottest issue — and directory information affect the most Aggies at any one time.

Students may The law also prohibits release of information other than "directory" facts without a student's written permission

Although A&M officials are careful to counsel beforehand, students may bar from release any part or all of directory information such as

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place, degrees, activities, major, dates attended and previous school

registration to fill out a form preventing release of the directory facts. Lacey's office then notifies other campus departments which are also bound by the pact.

However, his staff talks to those

wishing to do so to make sure they are fully informed of the implications. Many are concerned about possible release of names and addresses to commercial mailing firms, but few realize that in the case of a family emergency or a prospective employer, information on the stu-dent's whereabouts could not be re-

Since January, 1975, only 45 students have opted to have part or all directory data kept private, although 86,503 students have had the opportunity following each registration period.

Official notice is printed in the student newspaper, The Battalion,

during each registration time.

Confidential information has remained virtually unchanged by the law's passage, except for transcripts.

Conversely from directory data, no confidential material may be re-

leased without specific writte mission from the student. icy was in force at A&M before law, but it has created a pm with transcripts.

Grade reports are now sent student at the local address percent of the cases, notes Parents may only receive th if the student is under 18, ift dent gives written permission the student is carried by the as a federal income tax exemp In the last case, no pen from the student is needed a

parents notify A&M, gradest "In the area of transcripts, the law has been a disservice student and former student

processed from telephone or four- or five-day delay now because written and signed a zation from the student is n before transcripts can be ser Even when a friend of a st or perhaps of a former stude elsewhere, comes with a pr

quest, the friend must bear authority from the studentime plus written authority says bearer may pick up the trans. The friend must also carry

Student records are not neo ily confined to the registrar's

Once a year, The Battalione the complete official university on student records. I notice, students are reminde may have records with the sions office, graduate of academic counseling center president for student services versity police or controlled

He or she may also have file student financial aid, health housing office, Corps headqu athletic director, payoll ment, placement office or student advisor — plus dempartment heads and advisors

student's academic areas.

Aggies may challenge some ords directly related to them. other records are inaccess among them professors' gradel and observation notes, unit police records while in custod ployment records of a worker not a student, parental financia ords and medical files maintain

A&M-employed professionals Some students prefer to waive right to see records, notes L particularly where letters of mendation are involved. St

may fill out a written waiverto A number of people are thorized to see the files other the student. Included are A& cials with a "legitimate educ interest" determined by Lac cials of other schools the s wishes to attend, certain feder state educational agencies others.

Records may be subpoenad the law says the student or for student must be notified by before the records can be to over to the subpoenaing part plains Lacey.



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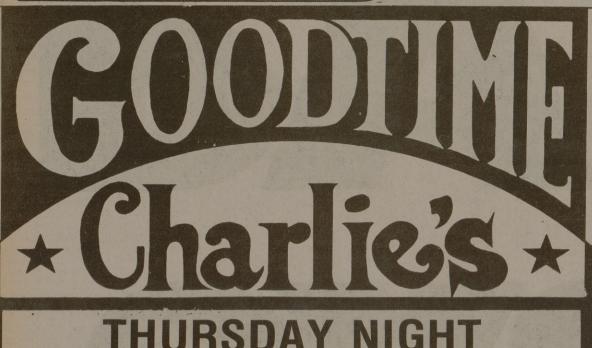
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