

# Attendance policy bad What about trees and grass?

## Editorial

The new University regulation which allows professors to figure attendance into a student's final grade is a step backward.

Encouraging class attendance is a worthy cause for the University to promote, but there are ways to do so other than instituting rules and regulations governing attendance.

For most students, class attendance is a requirement for learning the material anyway. So why add a regulation which is unnecessary, insulting to the student character and, above all, destructive of the principle of individual responsibility which is so stressed by the University.

In order for Texas A&M University graduates to be truly educated and responsible, they must have freedom within which to make responsible decisions.

A sense of responsibility is acquired only through individual action and initiative and cannot be forced upon a student by the University.

This reversion to a policy which allows professors to figure attendance into the grade is another item to add to the list of direct and indirect administrative pressures on students to conform to established procedures. This pressure to conform is not unique to Texas A&M but

is prevalent throughout our society.

True, the administration's traditionally strict demands to conform to rules leads most Texas A&M graduates into jobs which demand this type of conformity. But training for jobs and setting a student into a mold in order to fit into a job is not the purpose of a university.

The people of America must rekindle the ideals of the Revolution and fight back against unrealistic demands by established bureaucracies.

Many may think this is a minor issue and not one in which to bring up talk of revolution, but bureaucrats will eradicate all of our traditional American freedoms unless we start somewhere in trying to regain them.

There is some question whether last year's policy did allow professors to figure attendance into grades, but the move by some members of Student Government to get the regulation changed should be supported. Since University rules and regulations are revised only once a year, and the procedure is a long and drawn-out one, it will take a concerted year-long effort by the students to follow through and actually get the regulation changed.

— Jerry Needham

## Editor:

I keep reading letters to you complaining of the crowded parking on campus. Everyone keeps saying that we need more parking places closer to the heart of the campus. While I feel that this is a very legitimate gripe, I must also ask everyone if they have thought of the consequences of this action.

Adequately parking everyone on the central campus would require more concrete and parking lots. Trees and shrubbery would be a forgotten memory to say nothing of grass. Let's face it—it would look just like the U.T. campus and what Aggie would want that to happen to dear ol' A&M.

But, you say, there is still the problem of parking. A solution might be to buy a shuttle dingie (or about 7 or 8) and have a schedule course which it followed every 5 or 10 minutes from the parking lots to the campus and back.

In case anyone doesn't know what a shuttle dingie is, it looks like the train that runs from the parking lots at Six Flags Over Texas to the front of the park. This way, the school could build more parking lots farther away

## Listen Up

but yet everyone could be to his class in a matter of minutes. This could also be a good idea for the students who have to walk all the way across campus in the 10 minutes to get to their next class.

Another solution might be to build two and three story parking towers over old parking facilities. Either way, the beauty of the A&M campus would be saved.

Jana Thieme '78

## Pedestrians

### need crosswalks

Editor: Why is this campus so devoid of well marked crosswalks? One especially bad spot is the corner where Joe Routh Boulevard (which runs in front of the Memorial Student Center) meets Spence Street (which runs between the Military Science Building and the Corps Dorms). Any pedestrian who has had to cross the

road during the eight, noon, or five o'clock rush hours knows the danger in crossing the street at this point. Pedestrians must dodge impatient motorists rushing to beat the heavy traffic.

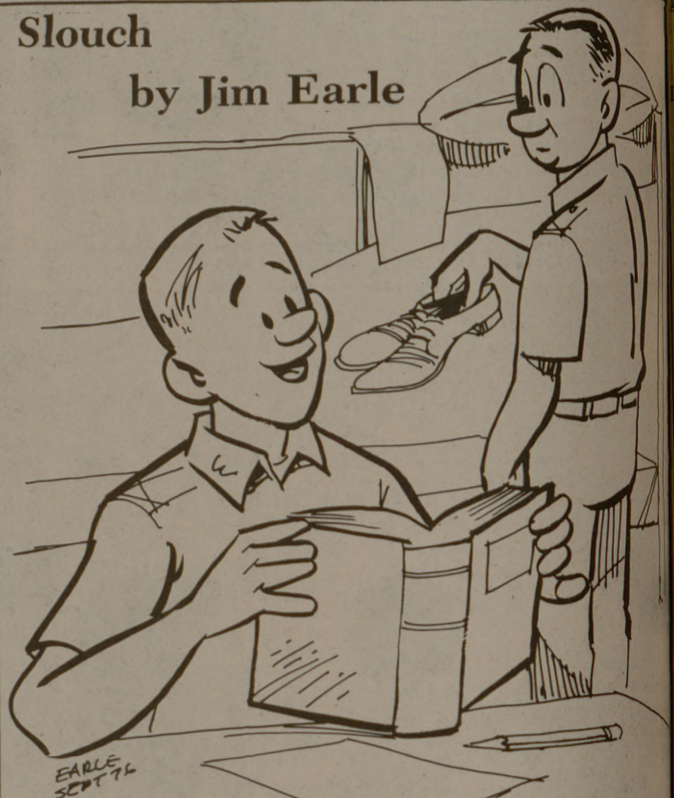
This area is heavily travelled by pedestrians. It is the most direct route to the Memorial Student Center for residents of the Kreuger, Dunn, Aston, Mosher complex and residence of the Corps Dorms. More than once I have seen near misses with pedestrians and motorists. I asked a campus policeman about the problem. He cited examples of near misses he had seen at the corner. Motorists often forget or don't think to make a conscious effort to yield to the pedestrian.

It is ironic that such a dangerous situation could be easily remedied by creation of a crosswalk. To solve the problem, all that is needed is placement of a "Stop" sign on the corner of Joe Routh Boulevard and the senior parking row beside the Corps Dorms as well as a "Yield To Pedestrians" sign by the new crosswalks similar to the ones behind the Zachry Building on Bizzell Street.

Such a crossing would be safe to pedestrians and fair to motorists as well, because they would not have to stop unless there were pedestrians in the crosswalk. The crosswalk would be especially helpful during football games and to old or handicapped people.

The answer seems so simple. Why haven't the proper authorities taken care of this obvious problem?  
Robin Linn, '78

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"Can you beat that? All that stuff he's been talking about in class is all written down here in this textbook!"

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Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's phone number must accompany all submissions.

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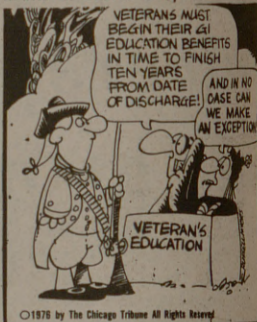
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