

Slouch by Jim Earle



"I've never understood before why he liked to study in the library!"

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

College no place for wasteful indecision

The Problem

The job market for college graduates is low. Grads work as store clerks, janitors, construction workers; as common laborers.

For many, the thousands of dollars and four (or more) years invested in college educations buy little more than a sheepskin for some dusty wall and membership in the Former Students Association.

Newspapers publicize the vast number of college grads who are not working in their degree fields. They offer suggestions or tell which areas may have job openings. All speculations, trends, and projections.

One Reason

Many feel they haven't had enough education to get a job, so they go back to school get a higher degree, only to find themselves educated out of a job.

There are not simply too many



Steve Reis

people in college, but too many that should not be there.

Why They Go

Different motives drive people to college — Parental expectations, peer pressure or the pipe-dream that a college degree is the skeleton key to all opportunities.

So people flock to the halls of higher learning, only to find themselves lost and out of place in the university world.

Parents who had no education push them to get what "they" never had.

Parents who have had an education push them because they think it is necessary to "make something of yourself."

Counselors subtly influence. Friends pressure without meaning to.

Students are indoctrinated until

Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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they think college is what they really wanted.

So they go. Many drop out, flunk out or just pick up their marbles and leave. But the worst ones; ones who hurt others as well as themselves, graduate.

They leave with a degree they never really wanted and don't know how to use. They damn the establishment and its heinous actions, complaining that the system has tricked them.

Too many of them obviously shouldn't have gone to college. They would have been better off, made more money and been more satisfied, had they followed another path. Perhaps a vocational school, where they could have learned a useful trade instead of going to college and trying to get an "easy" degree.

You know them—They are the college seniors who have never used the library.

They are the ones whose personal library consists only of "Playboy" and "Auto Mechanics" (or "Ms." and "Bride").

They are the students who spend all week going to parties and all Friday morning cramming for exams.

They are the borderline students who complain about the change from pass-fail to satisfactory-unsatisfactory.

They come to school and learn nothing. They take up class space and add to the statistics of out of work grads.

They are the chronic complainers

about how the system won't give them a job.

They should cry on somebody else's shoulder about the shortage of jobs and difficulties in getting one. If a graduate is worth a damn, you never hear the complaints.

If someone is complaining about how hard it is to get employment, take a hard look at why he came to school in the first place and whether he was any good in his field—not

good grades, but whether learned.

If he expected society to pick up, molly-coddle him with love and affection and give him \$15,000 a job just because he graduated, he is going to be disappointed.

But just because he managed to squeak his way through four years of college does not automatically make him valuable, it only makes him years older.

Parking discussed

Editor:

Texas A&M University continues to encourage car pooling according to paragraph 11 under Registration of Vehicles in Texas A&M University Motor Vehicle Regulations.

The first sentence of paragraph 11 begins "In order to encourage car pooling..." yet those who car pool are rapidly discouraged with tickets.

"All vehicles in the car pool will be assigned to one parking area as designated by the car pool members, provided at least one of the car pool members is entitled to park in that area under the existing parking space allocation policies," according to the University Motor Vehicle Regulations.

Reading this provision, one would assume if one member of the car pool was staff and allotted a random staff car pool parking permit, other

members of that car pool (i.e. students, staff, etc.) would be entitled to park in that area.

However, students who are members of such a car pool, assigned to random staff parking areas, getting tickets despite their permit.

Does this encourage car pooling? The University insists we follow regulations, why don't they?

Suggested relief

Editor:

The letter from Mr. Allan Stern on Tuesday, November 4, 1976, edition of the Battalion suggested that the parking policies of the University were antiquated and unfair.

Further, he suggested that some or group should undertake revision of the policy. This is exactly the charge of the University Traffic Panel. I can assure Mr. Stern and other students, faculty and staff that every policy is reviewed in detail every year. Policy statements are carried over only if they are determined to be in the best interest of the University Community.

Mr. Stern or any other interested persons are invited to attend the Panel Meetings and express their opinions. To place an item on the agenda for formal consideration, interested persons should call Kathy Bush at 845-1727.

Donald L. Wood, Chairman, University Traffic Panel

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