

# Why not a parking lottery?

#### By MARK RANKIN

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I recently read an article about a psychologist who was concerned that students might be under undue strain as a result of the pressures of day to day life in academia. To be sure, the pressures are there; but there are diversions. Some of us throw frisbees in front of the academic building. Others walk over and stare at the MSC. As for myself, I have become a watcher of parking lots. My favorite one is the one that

protects the Cyclotron from Mac-Donald's, its number has slipped my mind. It is relatively small, as parking lots go, and it has managed to remain assigned to the students although it has suffered more than a few encroachments from rival staff

lots. The thing that makes this lot so interesting is not unlike the thing that sends men off to war. It is the thrill of battle. If you don't believe me put down your frisbee and meet me there between 9:40 and 10:00 any weekday morning. What you will see is a phenomenon that economists have labled "excess demand," but I call it war.

It takes a special sort of person to go to war but the parking lot wars have their own specialists; the vul-tures and the trackers. The vultures

show up about 9:30 and position themselves at either end of the lot. Sometimes in the middle. When an unsuspecting student decides to leave campus, the vultures are down on the vacant space in a second. Usually the kill is instantaneous and merciful but I have seen more than one pedestrian left bleeding in the wake. The trackers, on the other hand,

are somewhat more cunning. They will pick up the trail of a likely va-cancy and follow it to the ends of the earth. I once saw a tracker follow a girl from the Academic Building, through the MSC, and into lot 60 only to be frustrated when her car stalled half way out of the space and a vulture in a Volkswagen squeezed in ahead of him. Watching these people is fun, but the sight of blood is beginning to get to me. Instead,

why not a parking lottery? Parking lots would be assigned numbers based on their distance from the Academic Building. In this scheme there would be no student lots or staff lots, just lots. Toward the end of each semester students and staff would enter bids reflecting their valuation of parking spaces and these bids would be used to assign

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receiving space in the closest lot and so on. If one did not like his lot des -ignation, he would be free to transact with someone whose assignment was more desirable. Those who did not choose to bid or may have ar-rived after the bidding would be allowed to purchase space for the amount of the highest bid associated with the lot of his choice.

It is possible, under this system, that a bid of \$20 would place you in one of the more distant lots but it is also possible that the same bid would allow you to park rather close in. The point is that you would have no one to blame but yourself if your bid were not high enough.

The present system of allocating parking spaces is inequitable at its best. There is no reason that a professor or a secretary should have any better access to the campus than the rest of us, given that a student cannot bid against either of them for that access. The parking lottery sys-tem can be a viable one. At its worst it is better than the present system which makes access to the campus a function of whether you pay, or are paid by, the university.



**"SOMEONE OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT** BICYCLE SAFETY. I PERSONALLY SAW FOUR SERIOUS WRECKS JUST THIS MORNING!"

## A Dutchman hears quiet Texas

Is this country noisy? The German who reported his view (Battalion, Feb. 18) thought so, and I can agree with him on the operation of a garbage truck being disturbing, espcially for those who shun the early daylight. One of the reasons why I moved away to another apartment last year. But Herr Haaf generalized to an extent that seemed unfair. I could assert that That's not the way to do it, though.

A DUTCHMAN HEARS QUIET TEXAS are qualitatively different. Of course, urbanization proceeds here also, and it could well be that composite index that is a weighted American city centers in general re-flect a higher level of audio pollution than German ones, as central cities depopulate and definance.

> What about the people? A lot of Germans and other Europeans who emigrated in the past two centuries did so because they preferred a lower level of government involve-ment. They implicitly chose for a lack of national planning, for less taxes and less federal spending. The Germans who stayed in the old country are, oddly enough, not subject to as rigorous a car emission control nor equal employment regu-lations as the present-day Americans. But their small cars are noisier than the non-compact U.S. equivalents. The streets are narrower, population density is higher.

Secondly, what is noise? Are the

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average of rural and urban noise? Is it illogical that a less densely populated country designs standards later than a crowded one? Are there cultural or biological differences in the acceptance of noise? Edward Hall's "Hidden Dimension suggests that human territorial claims differ widely by culture. Concepts of privacy and social per-ception are differently defined for Germans, Dutchmen, and Americans. Is Haaf sure that when "80 million people in this country are significantly affected by noise" the same thing, on a similar scale in Germany would have a similar con-notation? The citation of the Noise Control Act looked as much significant as the article's title was diplomatic. My reaction is that of a puzzled reader who is faced with seemingly incomplete statements by a Harkness fellow. Let's just quietly live on. -Jeff Stuyt

### Most students here to lea

Every semester new students come face to face with new instructors. Often, what happens in those first encounters has much to do with the outcome of the semester. I have observed several methods

of course introduction and found two common approaches.

There are some instructors who really seem to look forward to having a new group of students. They carefully explain the course re-quirements, objectives and grading plan, letting the student know exactly what is expected. These instructors are enthused and they may even express their optimistic belief that their students will do well. This enthusiastic approach is contagious adult-to-adult relationship a enthusiastic approach is contagious and students respond from the beginning. Oftentimes these courses may even be more complex and they want to learn. demanding than others.

course in a negative way. vey their feelings that the stude only trying to get throug easiest way possible. These tors make the semester's more e weat ments sound rigorous and with little emphasis on whatin gained. In some cases, the s finds little correlation betwee stated demands and actual we quired. Nevertheless, he may ready be turned off by the may Their o

introduce themselves

en, are tor's course introduction. een take Sure, it is the student's rea big freez bility to put forth the effort ticipate and learn regardless. is prepar which Se operate under the assump

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### Academic advisors exist wi

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Editor: Academic advisors at Texas A&M outwardly angry with me. Dexist, Mr. Miller! when I failed to interruption do exist, Mr. Miller!

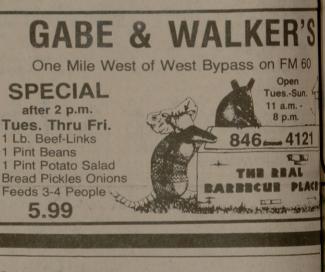
It appears that Henry Miller has ing to get help with a persona been unfortunate in his encounters with student counselors; however, he should not be quite so general in his opinions towards them.

Since my freshman year, l changed my major to Agrica Journalism. Here, too, I four Since the first day of my freshman advisor to be helpful and course year, one of my most trusted friends when I needed him. has been my past academic advisor. I was assigned to Dr. T.D.

I suggest students put forth Tanksley, Department of Animal effort toward a relationship Science, and his help cannot be un- their academic advisors—it is way situation. For those wh

derestimated. I went to visit Dr. Tanksley a number of times during my first partment head; maybe there year (often without an appointment) be a change in advisors. and I do not recall a time when he wasn't there to counsel whatever or just careless with his a problem I might have had. Not only

not for me to judge, but the did he see to my best interests, but two counselors on campus he also informed my parents that he was my advisor and if they had any questions they could call him at his never know the extent of office any time



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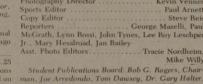
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#### Europe is much noisier than the States, and come up with arguments to support that. Just send a West-European off to Loving County for a week's desert camping and ask him afterward how noisy this country is. In the first place, Germany is in-comparable in size with the U. S. The population distribution is in-comparable. And the noisy events **BLANK TAPE** PIPES — CUSTOM BLENDED TOBACCO

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