

What can a mom do if tests, kids conflict?

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
A Texas A&M University coed
wears wearily down at her exam.
With one elbow resting on the desk
and chin propped in hand, she con-
centrates as hard on staying awake
as she does on answering the ques-
tions.
This drowsy coed is suffering from
the effects of "pulling an all-nighter."
Not the kind where one stays up
for a test at the last minute,
but the kind mothers are likely to
experience while they're tending to
a sick child.
This is just one of the hazards
facing mothers who are students at
Texas A&M. They have the unenviable
task of dividing their time and
attention between their children
and school, and this often means
choosing priorities.
"When you've got a quiz the next
day and a kid with an earache,
you're going to stay up with the
kid," said Karen Carsrud, a Texas
A&M graduate student and mother
of a 5-year-old boy.
She said her grades often suffer
from such conflicts.
"It's hard to find a balance when
both the child and school need im-
mediate attention," she said.
"You've got responsibility to both
sides."
Because she is a single parent,
Carsrud's situation is more difficult
than that of most mothers. "If I had
someone to share the responsibility
of raising my son, I know I would
do a better job," she said.
Surprisingly, many mothers said
that raising children while going to
school actually helps their grades.
"When you're married and have
kids you have a lot more incentive to
study and push yourself," said Joann
Pappas, a senior history major who
has a 3-year-old son. "You know you
need to get a good job as soon as
possible. If you're going to take
time away from your family to go to
school you want to make it worth-
while."
Linda Christiansen, mother of a
1-year-old daughter, is taking 19
hours this semester and she said her
grades are better than ever.
"I feel like if I did anything less
I'd be shortchanging my daughter
and husband," she said. "They give
me the encouragement to do well. I
don't want to let them down."
Finding a quiet time and place to
study is a problem, however. Most
mothers must wait until after their
kids have gone to bed before they
can get any serious studying done.
"Until I get my son to bed I really
can't study," Pappas said. "He's at
the stage where he doesn't like me
reading a book. He gets jealous and
wants me to play ball with him."
Pappas said her best time to study
is around 4:30 or 5 in the morning
when she has complete peace and
quiet.
Barbara Bryant, a 35-year-old
mother of three, is working toward a
doctorate in educational administra-
tion. She said she does much of her
studying in the Texas A&M library,
away from the noise in her home.
"Between studying for school and
taking care of a family, there isn't
much time left to try and keep an

Campus Names

'57, '72 classes
reunite Saturday

Classes of 1957 and 1972 re-
turn to Texas A&M University
next weekend for 25th and fifth-
year-reunions.

Assisted with arrangements by
the Association of Former Stu-
dents, the two groups will have
social activities, banquets and
programs centered around the
1:30 p.m. Texas A&M-Arkansas
Saturday football game. Associa-

tion Class Programs Director
Mrs. Olive DeLucia said 700
people are expected for the two
reunions.

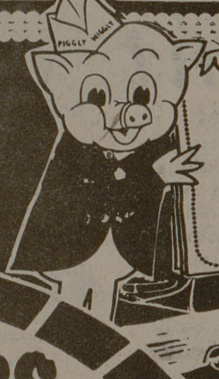
Southwest Texas State Uni-
versity President Lee H. Smith will
address his classmates at the '57
Saturday dinner. Others in the
group are Texas A&M professors
Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. John Hoyle
and Dr. Jack Lunsford.
Lunsford was corps commander.
Bryan dentist Dr. Charles Ernst
graduated in '57, as did Educa-

tional Television transmitter en-
gineer George Shearer Jr. Local
banker Dennis Goehring and
John Hopkins, class agents,
helped DeLucia with arrange-
ments.

The '72 reunion will include
Melba Royder (Mrs. Fred)
Maddox of College Station, the
Class of '72 Corps commander,
Tom Stanley, Ulrich Crow Jr.,
Student Affairs residences coor-
dinator, J.E. "Bubba" Loupot
and local rancher Tony Varisco
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5.00	2,800	2,929 to 1	225 to 1	113 to 1
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