

"If you insist on having a waterbed, could I trade you the lower bunk?"

OPINION

A close shave, but Q-drop saved

Students nearly lost the Q-drop last semester. Now, however, the deans have modified the policy and the Q-drop will probably survive. Sentiment ran strong in some quarters to abolish the "forgiveness factor" that has saved many grade point ratios and, in turn, many young careers. (The policy allows a student to drop courses during a specified time without penalty if he gets approval from his academic adviser and dean.)

Sure, students sometimes abuse the Q by taking too many courses, deciding which one or two are impossible — and dropping them without penalty. But other students use the Q-drop wisely — to compensate for honestly biting off more than they can chew or to cope with unexpected personal problems.

Individual colleges decided to deal with the abuse by restricting the number of Q-drops a person may claim or by making them harder to get.

That was not fair — university-wide policies should apply across the University. And honest students can be penalized.

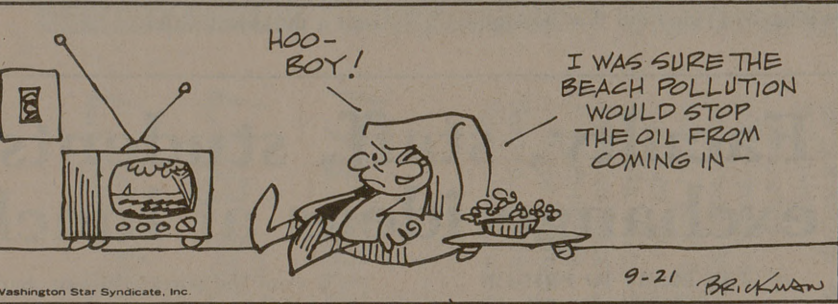
The new proposal is fair. It moves the Q-drop cut-off day back by three weeks. For instance, if the new policy were in effect this year, the last day to get a Q-drop would be Oct. 5; instead, the last day is Oct. 29.

The change — suggested by the student senate — must be approved by the Academic Council next month, but it is expected to pass.

The date change — from a week after mid-semester grades are reported to the 25th class day — is a compromise.

And in view of alternatives batted around last semester, it's a good one.

the small society by Brickman



THE BATTALION

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VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 21, 1979

DICK WEST *To fatigued joggers, presidents included advice on how to quit the race gracefully*

By **DICK WEST**
United Press International
WASHINGTON — I'll leave to others the debate over whether President Carter should have been in the race in the first place.

The only indisputable point seems to be that he didn't get out of it in time. He waited until his legs turned rubbery, skin waxen, breathing labored. All of which are nature's way of telling you you should have stopped 20 minutes ago.

That the president failed to heed the earlier warning signs suggests he has not yet learned the most fundamental part of long distance running, which is how to quit gracefully.

The president apparently felt that if he

failed to finish the 6.2-mile course, people would interpret it as a deficiency of endurance or fortitude.

Inability to go all the way, he may have reasoned, would have been another mark against him in the polls and given Sen. Edward Kennedy further incentive to seek the presidency.

So he kept going past the time when prudence dictated a strategic withdrawal.

Actually, as any experienced long distance runner will attest, there were a number of "outs" he could have taken without giving the impression he was too puffed to continue.

Here are a few of the acceptable ploys: Pulled ham string — Whenever a runner runs out of breath, good form requires

that he suddenly veer to the right, like a moped with a blowout, and limp to a halt. "Poor chap," the other thousands of runners will cluck sympathetically. "Ham string."

There is, of course, nothing wrong with the runner's legs. Indeed, if such medical records were available they probably would show it has been 20 years since anyone in this country pulled a ham string, whatever that is.

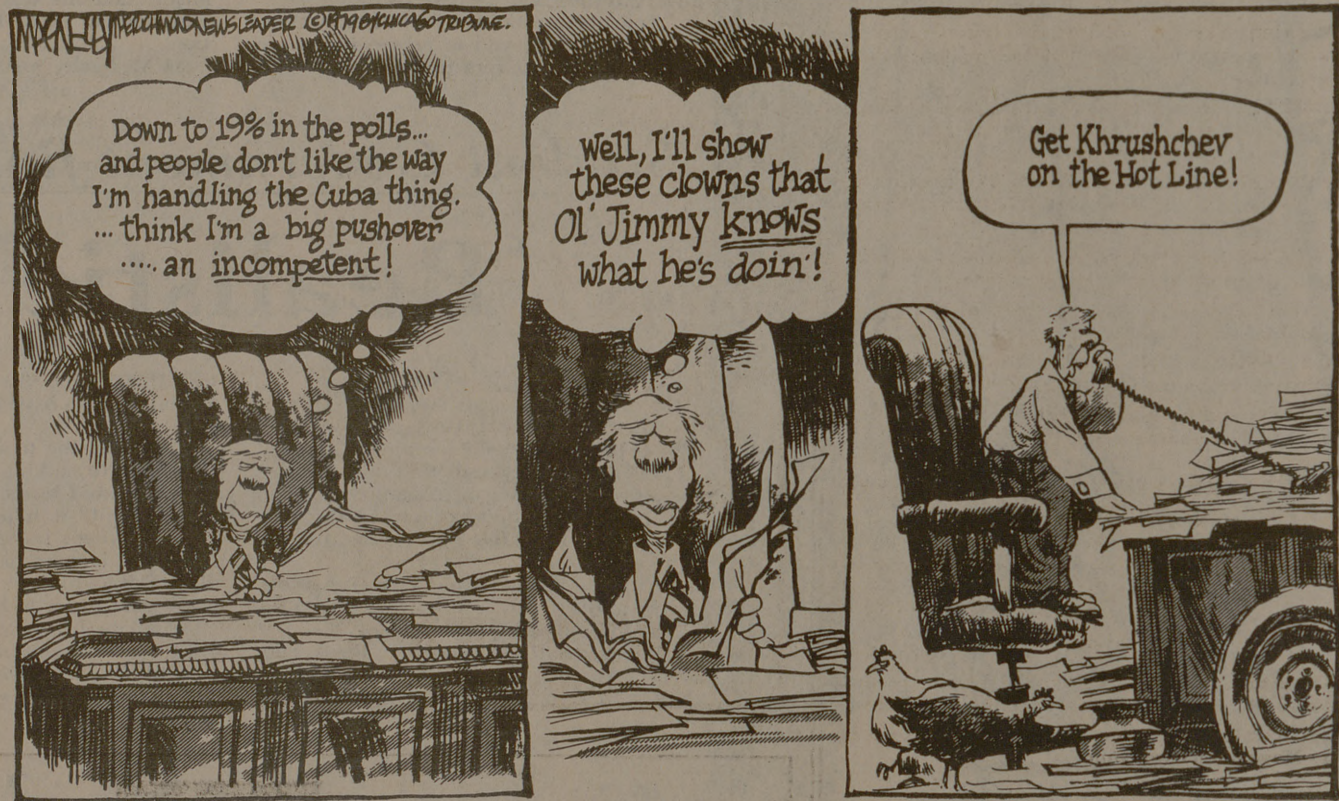
In running circles, nevertheless, pulling a ham string has become sort of a badge of honor, the jogger's equivalent of the skier's broken leg.

Equipment trouble — Everyone knows you can't expect a runner to stay on pace if something goes wrong with his jogging togs. Part of the mystique is that to feel

like a runner you've got to look like a runner. If, for example, your headband is down around your neck, people will mistake you for a cleric. In those circumstances, there is little point in going on.

Beeper signal — Smart runners use along one of those electronic devices that make beeping noises when someone wanted for an important message. One has been modified so the runner can activate it himself if he starts flagging.

In the president's case, the long would have looked exceptionally pathetic, particularly if, when pulling out of the race, he snapped his fingers and muttered, "Darn! Must be those Russian boys again." Too bad the president didn't do of these cover stories before he became obviously winded.



EDUCATION *Sharing facilities: one way colleges are saving bucks*

By **PATRICIA McCORMACK**
United Press International
The idea's as old as the United States of America: sharing.

It's the big movement in higher education these days as colleges and universities lean into the next decade — full of shifting enrollment patterns, higher costs and growing public resistance to new buildings and fatter budgets.

About one-fourth of the nation's colleges are involved in cooperative arrangements — and insiders say the movement is growing about 10 percent a year.

A report from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in cooperation with the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges explains:

"The desire for cooperation is prompted in part by problems arising from enrollments and financing, but also by a genuine desire to avoid excessive government intervention by working together to anticipate and implement needed change."

The report on 170 groupings of colleges and universities involving 775 individual institutions makes these points:

—Institutions studied reported 100 distinct cooperative activities that have been grouped as administrative, curricular, fac-

ulty and staff, facilities, community affairs and special interest.

—The 10 most frequently reported cooperative activities are cross-registration, coordinated student advisement, faculty exchange, visiting scholars, shared classroom facilities, joint majors and degrees, library use, faculty development, community events and loaned administrators.

Three types of private-public cooperative groupings exist. To wit:

—Type A: Informal partnership of two or three institutions in close geographical proximity. Right now there are 65 such partnerships.

—Type B: This largest and fastest growing type is the regional urban cluster of institutions. There are 73 such clusters on the American scene.

—Type C: In this category institutions are linked by special purpose such as international interests or a unique research facility. There are 32 groups in this classification.

Examples of each type:
1. Quachita Baptist College and Henderson State College are located almost across the street from each other in Arkadelphia, Ark., a small town 75 miles southwest of

Little Rock. They're into a Type A arrangement.

They are similar in size, around 3,000 students each. Students cross-register; courses are cross-listed. Many cultural events are joint. There is rivalry in sports but a mutual boosters association.

2. The Five Colleges Inc. are an example of Type B. This is the highly successful venture of five Massachusetts colleges — all in close proximity to each other and with complementary campus features. The cluster, grouped since 1965, includes Amherst, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, Hampton, and the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts.

It is just a 25-minute bus trip from one end of the five-school campus to the other. Cross registration is in the thousands. Faculty exchange and visiting artists are frequent. Meal service, when necessary, can be obtained without added charge on another campus. The inter-campus buses carried 800,000 passengers last year. Of the 6,200 cross-registrations last year, preference ran 2 to 1 for Amherst.

3. The Association for Graduate Education and Research for North Texas (TAGER) is an example of Type C.

This association of seven institutions on 10 campuses and several major corpora-

tions in the Dallas-Fort Worth provides academic programs on a tele-network serving 20 locations.

The north Texas institutions Tager include Austin College, Bishop College, Dallas Baptist College, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Texas Wesleyan College and three campuses of the University of Texas.

General Dynamics, Texas Instruments and Xerox are among the industrial partners in the network.

The association offers course work at graduate level to corporate employees, others at \$100 per credit hour. Courses in computer science, engineering, mathematics, philosophy, psychology and statistics.

TAGER's board is composed of university and lay leaders.

Commenting on the cooperative movement in higher education, Allan W. Oakes, executive director of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said: "As the resources available to higher education diminish, the quality of education will depend increasingly upon the most effective use of the available resources."

"Cooperation is not a luxury, but a necessity."

LETTERS *A shade tree doesn't help much in rain; shuttle buses won't keep you dry, either*

Editor:
I enjoyed your "Opinion" on survival in College Station rain. I wish to question, however, your statement that, "The shuttle buses ... are dry."

Perhaps you have not recently ridden a shuttle bus in bad weather. I invite you to ride my bus home one rainy day. We probably won't have to wait more than 10

minutes for the bus to arrive and although our stop has no shelter, there is a lovely shade tree.

Once on the bus, you may have to

search a while to find a seat that has not yet hosted a wet raincoat, umbrella or body. And if you do find this seat, it will probably be next to one of the windows

that doesn't quite shut all the way. So don't worry, you won't get wet — until the bus starts moving.

— Sharon Brown

THOTZ

by Doug Graham



Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines