

The way to beat a path to A&M's door

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All roads may lead to Texas A&M University, but not all those roads are equal.

Some roads are less-than-equal nightmares to get to school on, especially during the morning and evening rush hours.

What route one should take is heavily dependent on where one lives, and on what one uses for transportation. Riding a bicycle

mightily influences which streets to take.

In general, commuting strategy in Bryan-College Station follows the theory of least resistance.

That boils down to: take the easiest, least congested road and you'll get where you are going faster.

But many don't heed such advice. They prefer go "up the middle" Aggie-style and travel Highway 6, or Texas Avenue.

Only the Light Brigade could

choose a worse route. Highway 6 is just about the worst way to go.

Not only does the highway run both ways, but every student commuting to school travels it. Not only that, but it is honeycombed with traffic lights. Driving during the morning or evening rush hours will get the student to his destination, but only after aggravation and delay.

Making fast time in B-CS means taking the path of least resistance. That way the intrepid and thinking

soul can avoid the jammed herds of perspiring and grunting auto-buffaloes.

Chief of the redlight screamers is the intersection at the corner of Texas and Jersey. Cars have rusted apart while waiting to pass through it.

Of course bikers — the non-motorized variety — learn to hate College Avenue. That street has negligible shoulders, and even worse, seems to be the haven of rogue speed bumps.

But, for those who must travel either from Bryan or from the darkest heart of College Station, there are alternate paths.

One of the best is the old faithful East Bypass. Barring an occasional officer, one can speed to his, or her, heart's content without hassling with traffic until after passing Fed-Mart on University Drive.

Though the bypass may be a little out of the way, the wear and tear it saves on your vehicle, and your nerves, is worth what little extra gas it may cost.

Bicyclists can ride the access roads that run parallel to the bypass without the fear and loathing.

A particularly useful road, if one intends to go from Bryan to the University, is Cavitt. It runs between College and Texas, has few traffic lights, a bunch of stop signs and limited traffic.

Because of its width, it is a place where mopeds and bicycles dare to tread. And it isn't a bad place for the more sedate auto drivers, either.

Its most serious limitation is that it does not intersect University. But happily, it ends at Hensel Park, where College finally picks up wide shoulders.

Another North-South avenue is 29th Street, but it has its fair share of traffic and stoplights, and intersects with University at Fed-Mart.

A Cavitt-like path from Texas A&M to the farthest reaches of College Station runs on Timber Street, off of Jersey behind the golf course.

The bicyclist or motorist can dog-leg up to Glade Street and follow the serene, shaded streets all the way to Southwest Parkway. Just watch out for kids, since it is residential.

Another dogleg to the left at Southwest Parkway will take the student to Southwood Drive and off to FM 2818.

Eventually cagey commuter soon learns that frontal assaults on Aggieland aren't particularly fruitful, since those roads go on campus, which is jammed with millions of cars searching for the same 14-and-one-half parking spots.

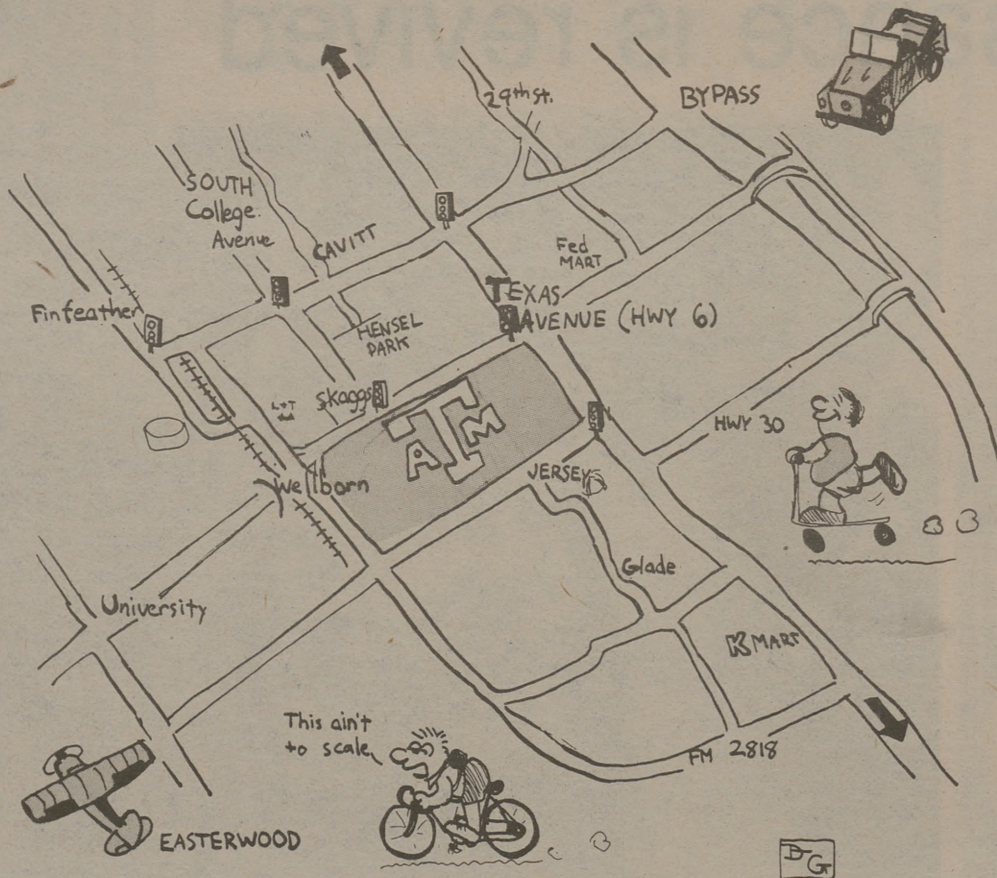
Hence, it is wiser, at times, to go the back route. Wellborn is a great road to take, especially since it was extended to Villa Maria. That means someone going down College can miss many of the infuriatingly uncoordinated hop over the lots behind the tracks.

Here's a neat hint: if you're heading toward Bryan, take the first turn onto Finfeather before you reach the end of Wellborn; it saves a left turn.

Wellborn also runs the other way. It takes drivers there quickly. No lights, no muss, no fuss. That's excepting, of course, the lousy condition of the road, but who can be choosy?

Wellborn leads into FM 2818, which puts the commuter about as far out as he could want to go, unless, of course, he's heading for Houston.

For however maligned that Highway may be, the two ways it leads are away from Texas A&M University. And that is, even for the most die-hard "OI" Army Ag, a good place to go every once in a while.



FOCUS THE BATTALION

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On the Cover: is the King's Royal Wizard and Master of the Revels, Merlin. Otherwise known as Bill Palmer of Houston. He keeps all of the strolling minstrels and musicians from the Texas Renaissance Festival in proper order. Photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

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