

Late to class? Walk faster

By L. R. RUTHERFORD
Battalion Reporter

One student leaves class exactly as the hands of the clock strike a quarter before the hour. He misses an important part of the lecture but he gets his next class on time.

Another student stays a few minutes after the allotted class time of 15 minutes before the hour to hear the rest of the professor's lecture. She has to run to her next class which is across campus. She doesn't make it on time. The lecture has already begun.

This is a common problem on the Texas A&M University campus. Students have 10 minutes between classes to get across the main campus which is almost a mile across in many areas.

Although classes are arranged so that those of the same department are together, students taking courses from different departments must go from building to building.

Edwin H. Cooper, dean of admissions and records, said this is a problem that has existed on this campus since he was a freshman here in 1949. He said he thinks the students have adjusted remarkably well.

In an attempt to solve this problem the students have come to depend on such vehicles as bicycles, motorcycles, skates and skateboards.

Bicycles seem to be the most popular and practical solution but they create another problem. They are often involved in collisions because of the heavy sidewalk traffic between class periods.

Another method students have used to alleviate the problem is scheduling their classes so they are located close together and there is plenty of time between each one. This is how the problem is solved for those students in wheelchairs.

However, this is not always possible because of the limited number of classes that are offered.

Howard Perry, associate vice president for student services, said the university has been studying this problem for many years. "It is an ongoing thing that we are constantly aware of," he said.

In 1973 and 1977, he was chairman of a committee to study this problem. He said they examined the feasibility of trams, bridges, people movers (moving sidewalks) and intra-campus shuttle buses. "We've been looking at shuttle buses forever and a day," he said.

The intra-campus shuttle bus is used mainly to get students

from the main campus to the west campus. The shuttle bus and staggered classes for the west campus have solved the problem of getting to classes at the veterinary college and the animal sciences building on time.

The shuttle bus would not be a practical solution for the main campus because of the traffic, Perry said. "We found you could really get there faster walking," he said.

Perry said the tram system would have been able to go into the mall areas of the campus. However, it would have cost more to operate than the intra-campus shuttle bus which operates at an expense of \$10 an hour. The tram would only have been able to move 72 people at a time and there is no way it could handle the amount of students now enrolled, he said.

The over and under bridge system has also been considered but Perry said people are very reluctant to walk over or under something. He cited the Wellborn Road bridge as an example, saying people would rather take a chance on getting killed than walk over the bridge.

Perry said the only way to move students faster than they could move walking is with a people mover system.

He said the moving sidewalks would have to be a three sidewalk arrangement. Adding a person would start on a low moving sidewalk, transfer to a faster moving sidewalk and then step onto another sidewalk going even faster. He said the process would have to be reversed to get off.

He said the system would cause a tremendous loss of flexibility on the campus. He also said the system could not have kept up with campus expansion.

Charles E. McCandless, director of the master plan committee, said the University's main campus was not going to expand and change much more. He said the expansion in the past was to catch up with the ever-increasing enrollment. Since enrollment is expected to level off about 1981, he said the campus would not be changed to a great extent.

He said a monorail system has never been considered at Texas A&M. He said the federal government had put monorail systems on other campuses but that it had not worked.

McCandless agreed with Perry about the inflexibility of the people mover system.



Aggies work on Bonfire

Bonfire continued to be the highlight of the fall semester at Texas A&M in the seventies. Corps members and civilians — all male —

worked on the stacks of wood that were burned prior to the annual A&M-Texas game.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

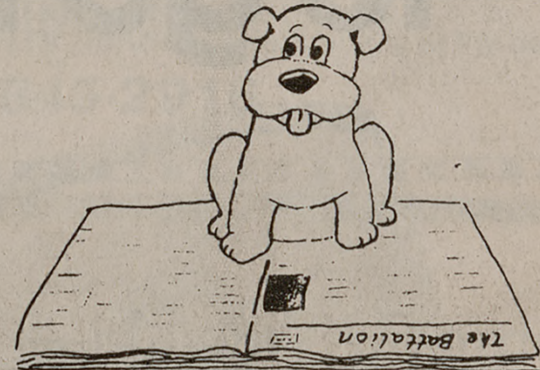
Delicate Dazzlers

Diamond Earring Special
\$29.95 pair
available in yellow or white gold.

Lindsey's JEWELERS
A One Of-a-Kind Store

MANOR EAST MALL
OPEN MON.-SAT. 10-9
20% off over \$100

9 OUT OF 10 PUPPIES
PREFER THE BATTALION



Battalion Classifieds 845-2611

ROTHER'S BOOKSTORE

696-2111

OPEN LATE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES
till 10 P.M.

- *USED BOOKS
- *VET SUPPLIES
- *NOVELTIES
- *MILITARY SUPPLIES
- *GREEK SUPPLIES
- *T-SHIRTS
- *SUPPLIES
- *CALCULATORS
- *CUSTOM CAPS

- Full 2 Week Refund.
- 90-Day Warranty on All Calculators.
- Batteries Replaced in All Models.
- Quantity Discounts on Shirts.
- Plenty of Free Parking.

OPEN DAILY 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

We Accept Master Charge & VISA On All

Book and Supplies Purchasers

AVOID THE HASSLE

PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

340 JERSEY ST.

AT THE SOUTH GATE

— ACROSS FROM UNIVERSITY POLICE —

