

Slouch By Jim Earle



"I just came in to assure you, now that football season is over, that I'd have full time to devote to my studies for the entire remainder of the semester. Could you refresh me on the assignment that was due before the SMU game?"

Questionnaire may do more harm than good

Editor:

My mother recently received a questionnaire from the Aggie Moms. Contained in this questionnaire were questions regarding teachers who could not speak proper English. Specifically, it asked if your son or daughter had any teachers they had a hard time understanding, and if so, what was the effect on their learning process. This problem, like many, is complex; and I wonder if the results of the cure would be worse than the problem itself if, in fact, a problem exists.

The first picture a questionnaire such as this brings to my mind is that of a bunch of word rattling Aggie mothers ready to chop off the heads of all those "foreigners" interfering with their son's or daughter's education. Although this is not a truly accurate description of what the group could do with the results of such a questionnaire, it does, however, express the alarming danger of a hasty conclusion derived from the results of such a questionnaire. We cannot allow a language barrier to exclude fine professors and students from the campus.

One question we must first address is, how accurate can a survey such as this be. After all, what is the natural human response to a mother who is calling up her son after receiving grade reports and asking why he is failing calculus? Of course the best choice would be an excuse: "But mom, I can't understand a word my lab professor says." This response, this attitude is the major block in finding, first of all, if a problem even exists.

There are, however, other factors involved in an analysis of this problem and one of these is the effect these teachers have on the student himself. The first and most

Reader's Forum

prevalent effect I see is an attitude of students that the teacher is just plain dumb: "He doesn't know what he's talking about. He can't even speak good English." This attitude is very easy to come by and causes the teacher to lose the respect needed from their pupils. In addition, it causes the buildup of all the all too common stereotypes so prevalent in human nature. These attitudes, however, can be changed with time and patience as the semester wears on. At the onset of the semester I felt just such attitudes toward my Chemistry Lab T.A. who is Oriental. But as the semester wore on, and as our language barrier became bridged by understanding and respect, I began to see other qualities in him; qualities of humor and caring. They were there, only I had been shut out from seeing them because of the language gap. In the end I came out learning not only chemistry, but learning that these stereotypes can be broken with time, patience, and above all, an open mind.

In conclusion, I would say that instead of making a rash, hasty decision that could, if handled improperly, do irreparable harm to this University and the learning process as a whole we should carefully screen all applicants who are going to be teachers in the classroom; yet at the same time we should place a burden on the student to show compassion and respect for such a professor and allow the experience to be one of great learning from which we can all benefit greatly.

R. Scott Kuhn
700 Dominik

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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The lesson of Pearl Harbor — don't let history repeat itself

Forty years ago today, Aggies weren't sure if they'd ever take another exam or see another bonfire.

Forty years ago today, men our age — our fathers, our uncles or our grandfathers — were anxiously listening to their radios and then rushing off to volunteer for service overseas.

Forty years ago today, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

And today, we are reading reports that one out of every six adult Americans does not know what Pearl Harbor Day is or why it is important in American history.

We live in a country where every person older than 18 has the right to a voice in deciding public issues. This democratically controlled country has amazing talents for preserving and extending life — and unprecedented powers for destroying it.

This powerful country is walking a fine line in foreign policy; it possesses the means to destroy all life on this planet several times over. The problem is — so do other countries. And several more countries could obliterate the city of their choice.

Daniel Puckett



The result is a crowded, confused world where the slightest wrong move could result in the death of us all, with no hope for any future; a world which is more complicated and more dangerous than it ever has been.

Yet one-sixth of the people who control this country's destiny do not know what event propelled it into the bloodiest war in human history.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," 20th century philosopher George Santayana said, and if it takes a repetition of World War II to remind the American people of the past, then that will be a lesson which teaches

nothing.

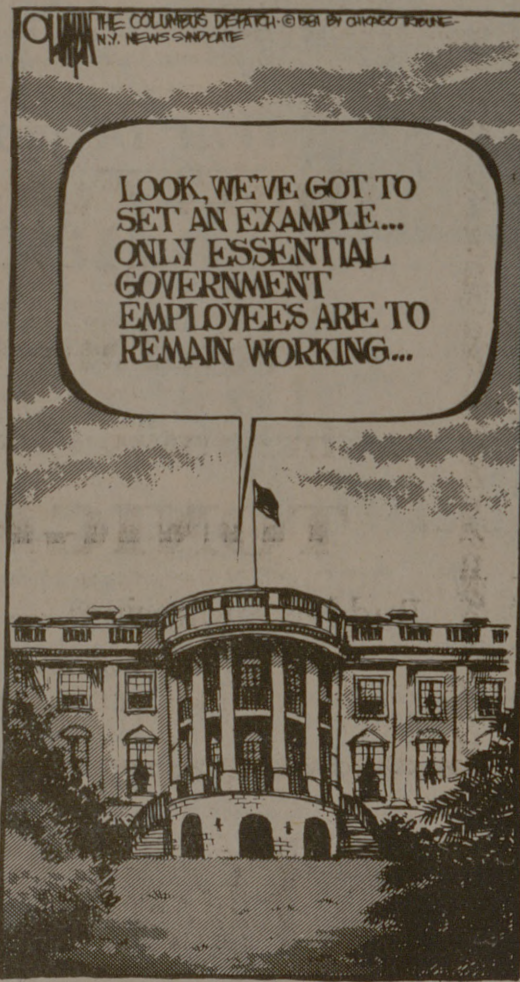
A corpse cannot learn anything. Whatever that poll means, whether it is an indictment of American education, American complacency or American addition to television, it presents us with a genuinely frightening statistic. If one-sixth of our people cannot remember Pearl Harbor, into what nuclear nightmares are we capable of voting us?

On this 40th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we should try to remember what the phrase "Horror of War" means, and we should understand that when our parents' generation used it, they did know what a true horror of war was.

In the 1930s, no one yet knew about nuclear fallout or radioactive poisoning, thousand-year half-lives. Now that we do, we need more desperately than ever to remember how close we stand to unleashing all that upon the world; how easy that ton is to push.

And how it is that a world gets to the point of pushing it.

We all need to remember Pearl Harbor.



It's your turn

Police need help patrolling campus

Editor:

I find it hard to believe the amount of criminal mischief that happens on this campus. In view of the recent rape attempt, theft of the megaphone from the Quad, destruction of the turf on Kyle Field and numerous other crimes, most of which go unpublicized, questions of the strength and efficiency of our campus police force are brought to the surface.

Texas A&M has 9,526 students, including the 2,235 member Corps of Cadets, living on the approximately 1,000-acre campus.

With this dense population, would it not make sense to have an appropriate police force on duty during the late night and early morning hours when most of these crimes occur?

Instead, the Campus Police is concentrating on ticketing those who violate their ever so valuable parking places. They have even resorted to hiring students to write tickets. Would the money spent to pay these students not be put to better use in strengthened night security?

Come on KK, we know you're trying, but let's get real. When a girl is scared to make the trek from her car to her dorm at night, something is seriously wrong. I sure hope that something will be done before rumors that A&M is unsafe after dark start spreading to prospective A&M students.

Scott Ortolon
1601 Holleman

Housing hassles

Editor:

I realize my problem is not an original one, but I want still want to express my feelings.

I am referring to the housing situation. Back in my high school days, I was lead to believe that if I applied for housing 15 months prior to my first semester at Texas A&M, I would more than likely be housed on campus.

At the time, I was ignorant to the long lines and endless waiting lists of Texas A&M. At any rate, I was not accommodated.

I recently stopped by the Housing Office to find out where I stand on the list. I was surprised to learn that there is no longer a waiting list for the Fall of '82 (or so I am told).

In fact, chances are that I could arrange to be on campus for the Spring semester. The problem now is that I am committed to an apartment lease until May.

As it was, finding a suitable apartment after being declined on campus housing was hectic. Should I refuse a Spring housing offer, I might well be on the bottom of the list again.

Although my deposit has been tied up in the office for 19 months, I am still not guaranteed a space for next fall. It is ridiculous that anyone must be kept for so long in the uncertainty of such a situation. I do not know exactly what the means for housing will be in the future, but I sincerely hope a more successful solution can be achieved.

Karen Lodico '85

Three cheers for Sbsa

Editor:

As I was leaving Sbsa, I realized how fortunate the Northside Aggies are to have one of the finest college dining halls. Sbsa

always has plenty of food to offer even when there is no electricity on campus. Not only that, Sbsa has a super efficient crew. They constantly put up with smart remarks and wrinkled noses. We may complain a lot, but we do come back for more. So Ags, let's give Sbsa a hand for a job well done!

Carmen Torres
Clements Hall

On the other hand...

Editor:

We all have criticized the food in the campus cafeterias at one time or another and maybe we even had a right to. But I think most Aggies will agree with me when I say that the food is usually very good.

However, the cafeterias do have a single and most noticeable fault — the unfriendliness of the cafeteria workers. I don't mean to say all of the workers do not pay attention to the customers (students) or express any courtesy towards them. The attitude of the workers makes it seem as though we students are forcing them to perform a job which they totally dislike. Perhaps a change in attitude is in order. I realize it might be unpleasant and even difficult for the cafeteria workers to do, but if they would put a smile on their face and politely ask the students, "May I help you?" the students would really appreciate it. I feel with this small change in attitude our cafeterias here at A&M could be the best in the United States.

This is a campus of friendly students as well as friendly employees. Let's keep it that way.

Alan Logan

Aston Hall