

# Participate to get excellent exercise

by Art Buchwald

I hadn't been on a golf course since I was a kid. The reason was that in my youth I was a caddy, and after carrying around heavy bags filled with irons and woods every weekend, I vowed when I grew up I would never step on a fairway again.

But the other day a friend named Riley, who plays every week, persuaded me to go out with him. "You'll love it," he said. "It's great exercise and the most relaxing sport in the world."

"I'll go along with you," I said, "but I won't play."

So the next morning we showed up at the golf course.

"The first thing we have to do," Riley said, "is rent an electric golf cart."

"Why do you need a golf cart?"

"Because they won't let you play here on the weekend unless you drive around the course. If people walk they slow up the game."

"But if you drive around the 18 holes, how do you get any exercise?"

"Looking for your ball. They permit you to get out of the cart to look for it. But they don't want you to look too long because the people playing behind you will get sore."

"How long do they let you look for your ball?"

"Three minutes."

"That long?"

"It gives you just enough time to stretch your legs, but at the same time it doesn't tire you out. Here come the other three guys we're playing with."

I was introduced to Hal, Chris and George. They each had their own golf cart.

"Why do you each need a golf cart?" I asked.

"We like to race each other up and down the hills," Hal said. "And besides, if you have your own golf cart you can block the view of your ball and kick it to a better lie."

Chris said: "Sometimes if one of the other players gets a real good shot and you can get to his ball first, you can run over it, so he can't find it."

"Frankly," said George, "I find cart racing is far more fun than playing the game. It gives the average golfer a chance to drive like Evel Knievel."

The foursome teed off and then we got into our carts and raced to our respective balls. Since I wasn't playing, Riley let me drive his vehicle. "Park close to the ball as possible," he told me. "so I don't have to walk."

Riley hit his second shot into a sand trap and started cursing. "I know should have used a seven iron instead of a five."

"Relax, Riley," I told him. "It's only a game."

It took him three shots to get out of the sand trap, two to get on the green, and three to putt into the hole.

He slammed the bag with his putter. Hal, Chris and George laughed at him.

"I don't care which one you hit," muttered, "but I want you to ram one of their golf carts."

"But we could hurt somebody seriously."

"So?"

"Look, Riley, I haven't been on a course in many years and I just remember why. Golf is the most frustrating game in the world. I've never seen one on a course who had any fun while was playing."

"Shut up and drive," he said.

The next 17 holes went about the same way with each player cursing and gritting his teeth after he hit the ball. For the most part we just kept driving from one shot to another. I figured that you counted how many steps they took to measure their ball to the flag, each player had actually walked the equivalent of city blocks for the entire 18 holes. The rest of their exercise came from carrying their golf bags from their cars to the locker room.

I'm not trying to put down golf because I know millions of people play. Actually it's a great contact sport. It's auto racing, and it takes a heck of a more skill than driving the bumper car on the Boardwalk at Atlantic City.



# Letters: Traditions debated

Editor:

This letter is in regard to Mr. Langsdorf's letter of Sept. 27.

Mr. Langsdorf, such ignorant letters as the one you wrote should be a crime to be publicly printed. First of all, where do you get off by saying that before civilians, this University was a "military training university" and that now (with the addition of civilians) A&M can become an "open-minded learning center"? No further elaboration is needed on the absurdity of that statement.

I'm sorry Mr. Langsdorf, but Texas A&M is known for its "fabulously wealthy academia, with excellent facilities and in most cases serious, dedicated students", and so are countless other institutions of higher learning. But Texas A&M is known mostly for its past military achievements, unified student body, traditions and (much to your apparent disliking) its Corps of Cadets.

I resent personally having my school referred to as a "monotheistic prison of pseudo-idolatry" and a "university dominated by unnecessary military traditions". Ask yourself why this University is dominated by traditions Mr. Langsdorf. Is it because the student body doesn't want them? Take your own poll.

I am tired of people like you, Mr. Langsdorf, who inflict their ideas on people and express opinions and because of a lack of knowledge, have no public literary authority to express them. I am referring to your statements regarding the Aggie Band and the Ross Volunteers. Until you have been a part of these organizations or have researched the subject thoroughly, you have no right to advocate "immediate introductions".

Allegiance and spirit to a university is fine Mr. Langsdorf, and you're wrong, it isn't expected of everyone. After reading your letter, it surely isn't expected of you.

Hardy Fairbanks '84

## Student seating

Editor:

How shortsighted we Aggies have been! Why the men who originated the tradition of standing at football games did not have the vision to anticipate that Mr. Langsdorf and others might be inconvenienced is beyond me. I have reason to believe that Mr. Langsdorf is not alone in his views, because the editor's column of this paper has been flooded with letters for the recent past from people who have felt equally dissatisfied.

In the interest of fairness, my roommates and I have formulated a plan which we hope will benefit those of us who wish to stand, as well as those who feel this tradition is archaic and militaristic. We suggest that a section of seats in the horseshoe be allocated for those wanting to sit. A reasonable number of seats to set aside would be about 2 percent of the available student section capacity. In this way, Mr. Langsdorf and others would be spared having to stand through the whole game, and the rest of us would be spared from the seemingly endless barrage of letters degrading the traditions that a majority of Ags embrace.

David D. Murry '83  
Erick Oakland  
Ray Robertson

## Aggie spirit

Editor:

This letter is in reference to the letter written by Mr. Stephen E. Langsdorf,

which appeared in the Battalion on Sept. 27.

Mr. Langsdorf, you had to know Texas A&M was a conservative school before you came here. The majority of students at this University came here for the spirit and traditions. The "militaristic attitude" you speak of has always been a part of Texas A&M. The Corps has been here since the beginning and will always be here. It is one of the many things that makes Texas A&M unique. If you wish to go to a school and sit down at football games, and watch females in the band, there are plenty of other schools in Texas.

Some institutions are sacred, Mr. Langsdorf, the Aggie Band and Ross Volunteers being two such institutions. It is people with liberal ideals like yours that made t.u. the sorry school it is today.

David Wick F-1 '84

This letter was accompanied by 60 signatures.

## No women in RVs

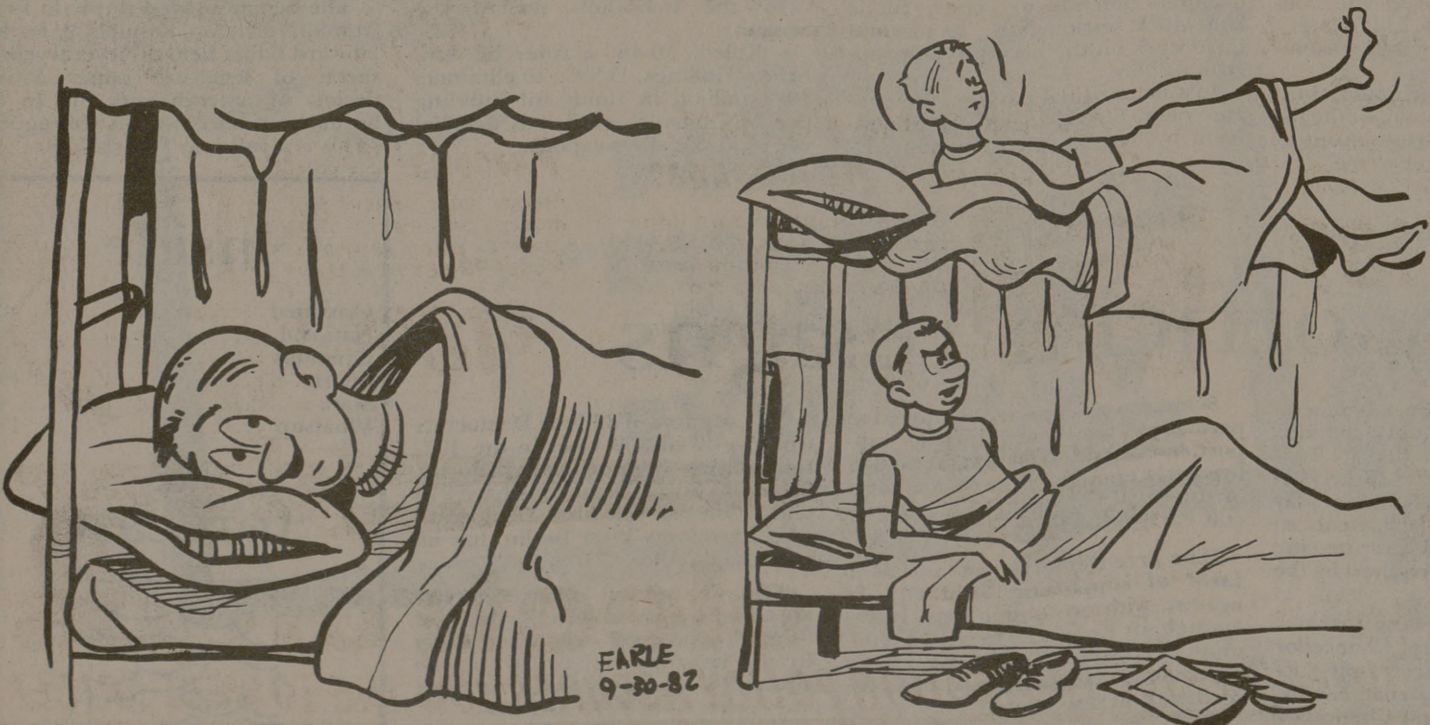
Editor:

This letter is in response to the one Stephen Langsdorf sent to the Battalion (Sept. 27). It would be disgraceful to have women in Ross Volunteers and especially in the Aggie Band. If women want to be in the Corps so much, don't let it be at Texas A&M, let them go elsewhere. And as for you Langsdorf, you KNOW where you should go!

Debbie Robertson '83

## Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Even an Aggie ought to know better than to have a waterbed on the top bunk!"

# Letters: Academics vs A&M athletics

Editor:

Monday's editorial by Dan Puckett was right to the point in the current debate about the personality of the Texas A&M campus.

When I came here, it was not for the athletic program, and it was definitely not for the traditions (at 28 years of age, I already had a well established identity). Had I been aware of the emphasis here on these two facets of college life, I would have reconsidered my choice and probably opted out. I was, after all, looking for an education, not a country club. By the end of my first semester here, however, I really had too much invested in this university to transfer back to the University of Houston.

Truly great universities are founded on academic essentials:

— a great faculty (which we seem to have)

— a great library (see Mr. Puckett's article), and

— an academically inquisitive student body.

When a student's choice of college is dictated by his/her (or his/her parents') love of social traditions or sports, something is missing. That something is the desire to get an education. If the solution to A&M's problems is to send the two percenters back down the highway, then this University will be permanently relegated to a second class status worthy of

the inferiority complex that Aggies seem to be masking with all their bravado. The students want this to be a great university, it is in their interests to support the drive to academic excellence, even if this means losing some traditions.

Change is not inherently evil.

Lain Ellis

## Academic excellence

Editor:

In reference to Daniel Puckett's editorial on refining the quality of the educational standards of Texas A&M, I extend my congratulations. It is refreshing to see this type of open-mindedness. The pursuit of excellence of any learning institution should be directed towards better academia. A&M's governing body must set its' priorities and efforts to facilitate learning. This entails employing school's monetary resources for improving our library, upgrading our graduate school, refining our computer system and attracting more distinguished faculty. The pre-eminence sought by the Board of Regents may then become reality.

Sandip Mukherjee  
Class of '84

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography courses 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 and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters.

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