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Checks

(continued from page 1)

have a local bank account or automated teller cards.

When 20 Davis-Gary Hall residents were asked about the check cashing situation, 18 of them said they go to the MSC main desk to cash checks. Several of them said, however, that they still have problems getting cash when they need more than \$25 or when the MSC main desk is closed for the evening.

So where else can students get cash? Safeway and Kroger are popular places to get cash. At both stores, checks can be written for \$10 over the purchase price at the check-out stands.

Nanette-Liska, an office clerk at Safeway, said students can cash a personal check at the office for up to \$30 with a 50-cent fee.

Patricia Warn, the manager at Kroger, said personal checks up to \$50 can be cashed with a Kroger Check Cashing Card at a fee of 25 cents.

"We get long lines on Friday and Saturday, especially on football weekends," Warn said. The number of students writing personal checks at the office seems to increase every year, she said, but this year she has noticed a large increase.

Some restaurants will cash checks, while others will not. Julie's Place and Bennigan's will not accept checks. The Interurban Eating House only takes checks from regular customers.

At Northgate, The Dixie Chicken's policy is to cash only checks from local banks, said J.B. Fletcher, manager. Duddley's Draw will cash checks for either \$5 or for \$5 over the purchase price.

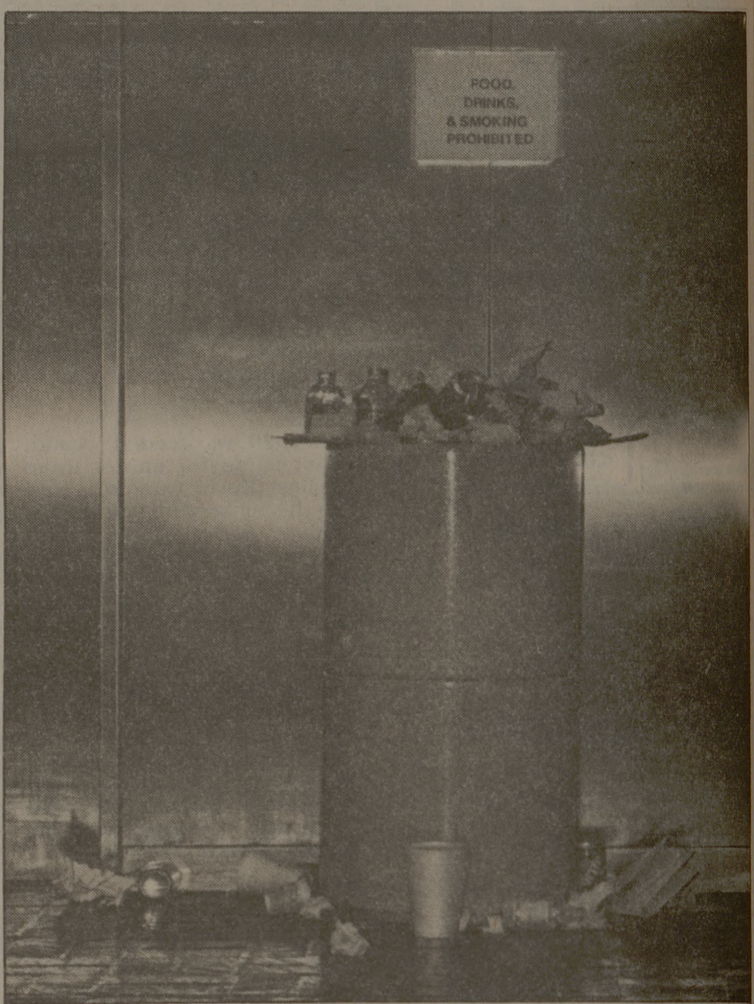


Photo by FRANK IRWIN

The can runneth over

Although food and drink are prohibited in Sterling C. Evans library, this trash can on the third floor near the elevator is spilled over with soft drink cans and bottles, cups, and snack wrappers Sunday night.

Probation

(continued from page 1)

sider their problems equally nightmarish.

Llhonda, a computer science major, says her bad study habits were her downfall when she transferred to A&M.

"I never studied in high school," Llhonda says. "I didn't have to, everything was too easy. Junior college was high school all over again, didn't study."

By Llhonda's third semester she was 13 grade points deficient and was blocked for the following semester.

Once students are "blocked", they are not allowed to enroll the following semester. Some students might decide to transfer to another school during the semester they are blocked. Unlike being "dropped" from the rolls at A&M, a block is not recorded on the student's transcript. Other universities are more apt to admit a student that hasn't been dropped.

Many students try to correct the problems causing their grades to slip during their semester out of the University. Some enroll in a junior college and try to improve their study habits; others just try to get their heads screwed on straight. They ask themselves: Is school really for me?

Students dropped permanently from the University are not allowed to enroll at Texas A&M again. "Dropped for scholastic deficiency" is stamped on the student's transcript.

Students may request a hearing by the University Academic Appeals Panel if they think they should not have been dropped.

Since other universities hesitate to admit dropped students, transferring becomes a problem. For example, the University of Texas will not accept someone who has been dropped from Texas A&M or any other school. Why should UT accept a student that can't cut it somewhere else? A&M has a similar policy, as do most schools.

Llhonda is an A&M student again and is still on probation. She says she has her situation under control; she studies differently now.

"I read the book now," Llhonda says, then laughs. "I also go to class now." She confides in a whisper that she had a bad habit of skipping classes before.

"I do my homework, and on time," she says. "I don't procrastinate nearly as bad as I used to." She pauses and admits, "I still do, but it's not nearly as bad."

Unlike Llhonda who sat out a semester, another student, Susan, decided not to return to A&M after she withdrew.

Susan was a graduate student and says her study habits were fine except for one class where she earned a C. She said she was placed on scholastic probation because her grade point fell below a 3.0.

Graduate students must have a 3.0 before they can graduate; students are often placed on probation to call attention to their bad grades.

"Do I blame it on my teacher?" she asked. "Yes. What he taught us and what he tested us over, well, they were different. I withdrew (the semester she was placed on probation) because I knew I couldn't make up the C (made during her first semester here). So rather than have them kick me out, I withdrew. I still think a 2.8 is honorable."

Most students would envy a 2.8 GPR, except graduate students.

It's a good idea to know where you stand in terms of deficient grade points. At A&M you begin with a clean slate. That is, only the grades you earn here are figured into your GPR.

Multiply the number of hours you've accumulated here by two and compare that number to your grade points. These figures are on the bottom of your most recent grade report. These numbers must be equal for you to have a 2.0.

For example, suppose you've earned 30 hours here; you must have 60 grade points to have a 2.0. If

you have 54 grade points, you're six points "down".

Once you're on probation, chances are you'll receive a letter from your dean telling you the kinds of grades you'll need to make if you want to continue at A&M.

A typical letter tells students that they must take at least 12 hours and earn a C-plus-six (or more) the next semester. A C-plus-six means that you must make grades good enough to earn a 2.0 plus a little extra. That little extra, six in this case, would be two B's.

How can you make up the six grade points you're down? Remember, you need to make above-average grades to make up for the below-average grades that got you in this situation. That means you need to make A's and B's; they're the only grades that make up grade points.

For a three-hour class an A is worth six extra grade points — two for each hour. B's are worth three extra for a three-hour class — one for each hour. C's aren't worth any extra.

D's dig the hole deeper; they're worth negative three for each three-hour class. F's mean even more trouble; they're worth negative six for a three-hour class.

Taking an average 12-hour load with six points to make up, you could make two C's (worth no extra grade points) and two B's (worth three extra per class). You could also make three C's and one A and still make up the deficit.

Some deans allow students to take "easy-A" classes outside their curriculum to make up the deficient points; other deans insist the students continue following their curriculum.

Scholastic probation is no piece of cake for students because much pressure is put on them: "Can I make the grades? Will my dean really kick me out? I only met half my terms. I'm a goner."

Scholastic probation is no piece of cake for the deans either: "Can they make it? Are their problems really solved? Should I let them stay?"

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