

OPINION

No-pass, no-play not meant to harm

Education should be the primary goal of this nation's schools. Period.

Education isn't the only goal, but it's the most important. The no-pass, no-play eligibility rule is an attempt by the state legislature to put education in proper perspective in schools.

Now some high school athletes are looking to defeat the purpose of the rule by taking easy classes. A high school football player from Plano said he might drop physics and trigonometry from his schedule because he is afraid of failing the classes. Another football player said he wants to major in business but won't take a computer class if he thinks he'll have trouble passing it.

While easy-class insurance may be good for the athletic part of teenagers' lives, it does nothing for the academic part.

What happens to these athletes after successfully completing their "passable" schedules and receiving high school diplomas?

One, they could continue their education and enter college courses with fundamental knowledge of the subjects. Two, they could enter the job market armed with a high school diploma and no understanding of "hard" subjects, severely limiting their job qualifications.

Not all high school athletes are padding their schedules with cush classes. Some athletes have the right idea about education. "If you want to excel in sports, you should put out that little extra in yourself to do well in the classroom, too," said an all-state placekicker from San Antonio.

Some coaches are vowing to do whatever is necessary to help athletes pass classes. Some are setting up study hall programs. Some are telling their players that no-pass, no-play is to be taken seriously.

Other coaches are making illogical connections to the rule, "Somebody is going to be killed because of that rule," a coach from Dallas said. "If a kid drops out of school because he can't play football, and he robs a 7-Eleven and shoots somebody, that's a direct result of no-pass, no-play." This inadequate casual relationship is reminiscent of the 18th century belief that educating women would lead to the total degeneration of the family.

No-pass, no-play deserves the support of coaches, students and society. It's not designed to punish athletes, or anyone else participating in extracurricular activities. It's aimed at educating children, and after all, students aren't the only ones who pay when education fails. Society eventually pays by having members that lack the necessary tools to operate in an advanced and technical world.

The Battalion Editorial Board

What's a vacation without any noise?

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

"Is this the Noise Pollution Authority?"

"Yes, it is."

"This is RFD 142. I'm on vacation at Tashmoo Pond and I haven't heard any noise all day long."

"Just a minute, let me check the book. You were supposed to have a crew cutting down a dead tree in the next yard at 6 o'clock this morning."

"Well, they didn't show up, and I slept until 8 o'clock. I've felt rotten all day."

"Did a private jet fly over your house at dawn?"

"No. I haven't heard a plane all morning. What kind of an authority do you people run when a guy can't get sufficient noise to satisfy his basic vacation needs?"

"We're doing the best we can. We put you down for a bulldozer to clear the land behind your house, but we had to send it over to Lesley's Pines because the couple there only rented a house for a week and claimed priority."

"You people should have enough pollution devices to satisfy everybody. New York City does."

"We're not New York. As matter of fact, our authority couldn't stay in business if we didn't have noise pollution volunteers available for a large percentage of our work."

"I'm sorry. We city people are used to getting noise when we want it. Look, the silence is driving me crazy. I sit on my porch in my rocking chair and all I hear are the tweeting of birds and the occasional voice of the turtle in the land."

"Did the boy show up with his electric hedge cutter at the Tiltons? He was scheduled to be ther from 2 to 5 when your were taking your nap."

"He did not. I complained to Bob Tilton and he said it was none of my business when he has his hedges cut."

"Bob's very much against noise. We've had complaints about him before."

"It's 6 o'clock and I'm having guests for drinks. Why don't you send over a garbage truck so we can't hear ourselves think?"

"We don't send out garbage truck crews after 5 o'clock. Would you consider three or four motorcycles revving up in your front of your house?"

"At this stage I'm willing to take anything."

"Wait a minute, I misspoke. The dispatcher said we had an emergency. There is an old lady in Oak Bluffs who just got home from the hospital and he sent the Hell's Angels there."

"You must have someone who can disturb the peace."

"We have a bunch of beer-drinking college kids who will play hard rock outside your bedroom window. But they're booked up until Friday."

"This is the worst summer I've ever had. I've been here 10 days and spent three of them in utter silence."

"Please don't exaggerate. We sent out a road crew to dig up your street yesterday."

"They used their pneumatic drills for four hours and then broke for lunch. I don't call that noise."

"The authority is doing the best it can. Everybody wants noise pollution when they are on vacation. But no one is willing to pay for it."

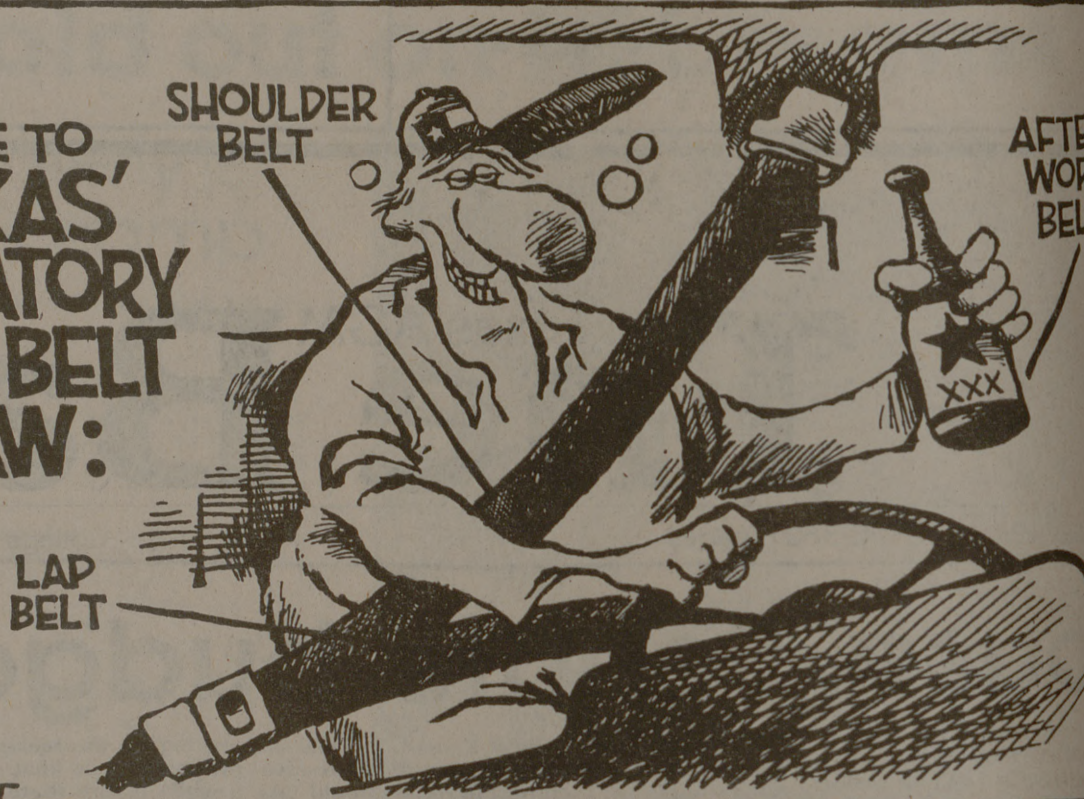
"I don't want you to tell me how tough your life is. All I care to know is are you going to send someone to get on my nerves or aren't you?"

"If you don't tell anyone. I believe I have good news for you. They're going to start building a condominium across the street from you next week, and it should take two years. The noise from digging a new foundation will be enough to drive you up the wall."

"I'll believe it when I hear it with my own two ears."

GUIDE TO TEXAS' MANDATORY SEAT BELT LAW:

MARGULIES ©1985 HOUSTON POST



To get to Mars, human family must put aside squabbles

A long time ago a now-forgotten band named Three Dog Night did a song called "The Family of Man." "So hard, whatever are we comin' to?" the song went. The family of man is not a happy family. The members like to squabble a lot.



Loren Steffy

The United States and the Soviet Union maintain the greatest sibling rivalry within the human family. Each refuses to allow itself to be outdone by the other in terms of power or technology. Every scientific breakthrough is a chance for more competition.

The two have challenged each other in everything from arms races to relay races, but nothing seems to quench their desire to best the other. Perhaps their greatest battle has been the space race. The United States and the Soviet Union are locked in a stalemate in this competi-

tion. The U.S. got to the moon first, but the Soviets hold the endurance record.

Now the two rival superpowers in the family of man are faced with the possibility of leaving this planet and setting foot on another, millions of miles away. Mars may be within man's grasp by the turn of the century.

Unfortunately, costs for such a mission would give the defense budget a run for its money. Deke Slayton, veteran of the Apollo-Soyuz mission ten years ago, suggested the Martian exploration would be easier and cheaper if both governments pitched in.

Slayton's idea is a logical solution to the problem, but can the hatchet that separates the United States and the Soviet Union be buried long enough to complete the mission? Can the long-running sibling rivalry between the two governments be laid to rest?

We have to try. The family of man is on the brink of the greatest scientific advancement of the Space Age: setting foot on another planet. For centuries men of all nations have dreamt, philoso-

phized and prophesied about the to another world.

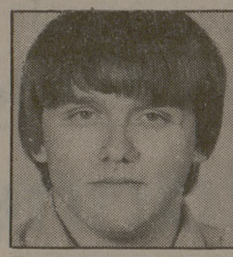
We have the technology, all that stands in our way is politics — terrestrial disagreements that are fully insignificant in space. Space doesn't understand our prejudices doesn't care. It's offering us a chance to gain untold knowledge about our universe. We would be foolish to miss that chance because of political squabbles. Space doesn't understand them, either.

Obviously, the U.S. and the Soviet Union cannot set aside their differences and act like best friends. But we must overcome our prejudices in order to share this scientific achievement. No one said it would be easy but we owe it to humanity to try.

Loren Steffy is a junior journalism major and the Opinion Page Editor for The Battalion.

I'll gladly pay you a year from Tuesday for college today

Once upon a time there was a young man named Fred J. Alpheratz.



Karl Pallmeyer

Fred was a cook, a very good cook. His specialty was hamburgers, the very best hamburgers in the world.

One day Fred decided that he should try to make money by selling his hamburgers. He talked to a rich man named Winston Z. Marmoset and he agreed to help Fred sell his hamburgers.

Fred and Winston developed a plan to sell Fred's burgers. They would open a very nice restaurant, the nicest burger joint in the world, in which they would sell Fred's hamburgers. They called their product The Alpheratz and Marmoset Ultra-burger, or TAMU for short.

They would charge four dollars for a TAMU.

Fred and Winston opened their restaurant and became very successful. Soon many people from other states and countries found out about Fred's hamburgers. They would come for miles and miles for a TAMU. Fred and Winston saw how many "foreigners" were visiting their restaurant and they decided to charge them \$40 for a TAMU.

Some of these "foreigners" would pay this high price because they couldn't find a hamburger quite like a TAMU anywhere else. Others would use special "coupons" to help them afford the price of a TAMU.

One day many years later, Fred and Winston were looking over their books. They thought that they weren't making as much money as they would like. They hadn't raised their prices in several years so they thought they could make

more money if they charged more for a TAMU.

But Fred and Winston got greedy. They saw that people would pay a lot for Fred's hamburgers so they raised their prices by 200 percent. Now local people had to pay \$12 for a TAMU. "Foreigners" had to pay \$120 for a TAMU. Fred and Winston also did away with most of the special "coupons" so the "foreigners" had to pay the full price.

After awhile the new prices started to take effect. Fred and Winston started losing lots of money. It seemed as if they were charging too much. People may have wanted a TAMU but they could only afford to pay so much for it. The Alpheratz and Marmoset Ultra-burger became a thing of the past.

The preceding was just a fairy tale. Fred J. Alpheratz, Winston Z. Marmoset and the Alpheratz and Marmoset Ultra-burger don't exist in the real world. But the situation that Fred and Winston faced does.

A little while ago the state legislature, which operates Texas A&M University — or TAMU for short — looked over its books and thought they weren't making as much money as they would like. They hadn't raised their prices in several years so they thought they could make more money if they charged more to go to TAMU.

But the state got greedy. They saw that people would pay a lot for Texas A&M's diplomas so they raised their prices by 200 percent. Now in-state students have to pay \$12 for a TAMU semester hour. Non-resident students have to pay \$120 for a TAMU semester hour. Texas also did away with most of the scholarships so the non-resident students have to pay the full price.

In the fall the new prices will take effect. Texas A&M is expected to lose money instead of making money. Maybe they are charging too much. People may want to go to TAMU but they can only afford to pay so much for it. Texas A&M University may become a thing of the past.

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Kellie Dworczyk, Editor
Kay Mallett, John Hallett, News Editor
Loren Steffy, Editorial Page Editor
Sarah Oates, City Editor
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff

Assistant City Editor..... Katherine Hurt
Assistant News Editors..... Cathie Anderson, Trent Leopold
Entertainment Editors..... Cathy Riehl, Walter Smith
Copy Editor..... Trent Leopold
Make-up Editor..... Ed Casavola

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

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

The Battalion is published Tuesday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDaniel Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2630. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.