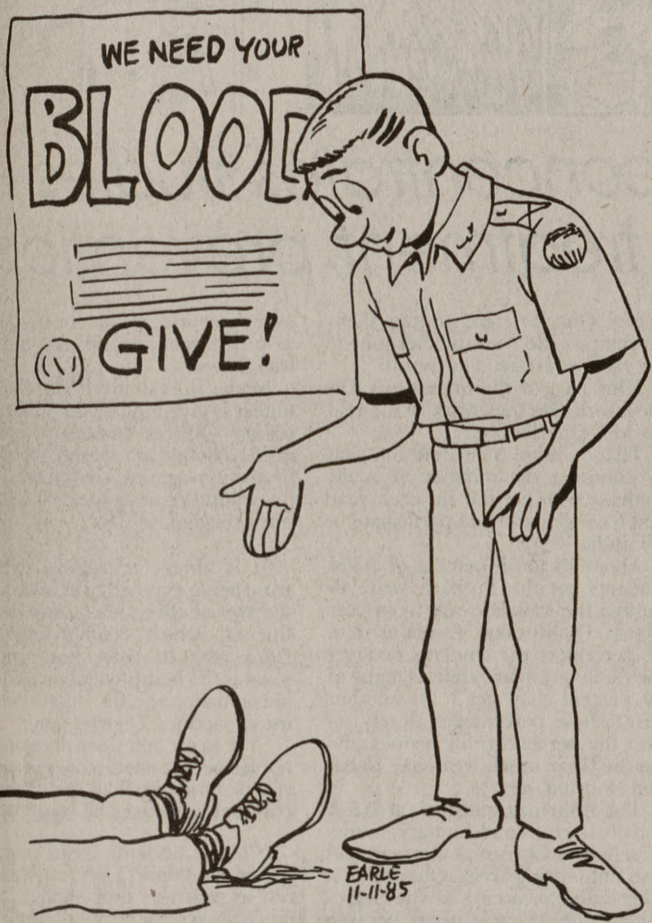


# State and Local

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Just from reading the sign, you FAINTED?"

## Special courses instruct students in leadership skills

By LINDA SIPPOLA  
Reporter

A series of leadership classes is being offered this spring through the Department of Student Activities, the management department and the sociology department.

The classes focus on aspects of management and leadership skills student leaders need in their positions, says Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities.

Students learn to train and supervise others as well as to manage time and money, Adair says.

The Department of Student Activities started the classes to inform student leaders about the University, Adair says.

From there, new classes developed as they were needed, she says.

The courses now offered by student activities include: Emerging Leaders Seminar, Speakers Seminar, Management of Student Organizations, Leadership Ethics in Organizations and Minority Student Leadership.

Students earn one credit hour for any of the courses except the Emerging Leaders Seminar, which is offered for freshmen only with no credit given.

All of these courses are listed in the course schedule as Management 481 except the class in minority leadership, which is Sociology 489.

Because different classes have the same course number, Adair warns

that students must pay attention to the section numbers when registering.

Martha Bellens, a student senator, says that in her class she learned to motivate people and to draw out the quiet ones.

Controlling large and small groups is another skill Bellens says she learned.

"The classes are like a big workshop more than anything else," Bellens says.

Michelle Davis, president of Off-Campus Aggies, says she took two of the classes because she felt they would help her learn communication and leadership skills.

"The classes helped me understand how to deal with other people," Davis says.

Adair says most students taking the classes are in leadership positions, but the classes are open to all students.

The enrollment in certain classes is limited, but others accept as many as the room will hold, Adair says.

Students can register for these classes just as they do for their regular classes unless the class is by application, Adair says.

Students must apply for the speakers' seminar. The leadership ethics course has a limited enrollment, but is open to all students.

Before enrolling in these classes, Adair says, the student must contact her office.

## North vs. South

Texas A&M Living Historians re-create Civil War conflicts

By JOHN MCCARTER  
Reporter

You're approaching a clearing and spot a swarm of Federals preparing to charge your battalion.

You grab your weapon and brace yourself for a confrontation.

The bugle sounds and, with a wild yell, you race toward the enemy with only one thing in mind — defend the Confederacy.

But, wait a minute — this is 1985, not 1861. The president is Ronald Reagan, not Jefferson Davis.

There are two possibilities. You're either starring in a Civil War movie or you're a member of the Texas A&M Living Historians.

Chances are it is possibility No. 2.

The Living Historians is an organization comprised of students interested in American military history, primarily the Civil War.

"Our organization offers the opportunity to go back in time and re-live history," said Scott Swenson, a past president of the club.

"You get to experience some of the hardships soldiers faced during that time period."

Although the members of the club have a lot of fun with it, they take their hobby very seriously, he said.

"We strive for education of the public on historical accuracy," Swenson said.

"We want to quell some of the myths about this time that Hollywood has started. There was a quote once in a historical magazine that we like to go by. It said, 'History preserved through knowledge shared.'"

"We even get down to how (the soldiers) stitch the buttons on their uniforms and the underwear they wore. When you wear the clothes and eat the food you can appreciate what they did more."

— Scott Swenson, past president of the Texas A&M Living Historians.

Swenson said before the Historians go to a re-enactment, they research the uniforms, weapons and food eaten at that time.

"We even get down to how they stitch the buttons on their uniforms and the underwear they wore," he said. "When you wear the clothes and eat the food you can appreciate what they did more."

The Living Historians was started in 1979, but Swenson said it only was an information center for people who wanted to go to re-enactments.

"Most of the people who got into the group were already involved in re-enactments and we never really did things together," he said.

"In 1982 we decided to make our own unit because we felt it was stupid for there to be a group of Aggies at a re-enactment and some to be in one regiment and some in another. There were some even fighting for the Union."

Swenson said he also noticed a change in the distribution of the members in the club.

"In 1981, when I got here, there were about eight or nine members and all of us were in the Corps," he said.

"Right now I would say about 80 percent of our members are in the Corps and 20 percent are non-reg's."

David Boutwell, president of the Living Historians, said some people take what their forefathers did more seriously than others.

"It's an awesome feeling when you see your ancestor's grave and know that he fought in the war," Boutwell said.

Re-enacting the Civil War is something someone already must be interested in, he added.

"One of the biggest problems we have in getting members is the cost of the hobby," he said.

There are no club dues, but each member is required to have his own uniform and equipment.

Swenson says the average cost to be a well-equipped infantryman is a minimum of \$600.

"The longer you are involved in re-enactments, the more uniforms and equipment you want," he said.

To allow prospective members the chance to see if the club is for them, members will loan uniforms to them for their first battle.

"The only requirement we have is if they want to stay with the group

after the first battle that they buy their own equipment as they can afford it," Swenson said.

To accommodate more members and help defray expenses, the club will be holding a bicycle auction Friday at Rudder Fountain with bicycles that the campus police have in their possession, he said.

The money raised at this auction will enable members to go on more re-enactment trips in the next year.

Next year will be the 125th anniversary of the start of the Civil War and will be a busy year for the club, he said.

The club goes to about eight or nine events a year, but he said, in 1986 members hope to attend about 15.

"This hobby is bigger in the East because they live closer to Civil War historical sites," Swenson said.

"Traveling for eight or nine hours by car is nothing for us, but in the East they can go to re-enactments all year and never get more than one or two hours away from their hometowns."

Traveling will not be a problem for the club next spring when members hold a re-enactment on the A&M campus.

There will be an instruction camp set up on the Ormond R. Simpson Drill Field complete with tents and Confederate troops drilling.

This re-enactment will give the club an opportunity to be in the public eye.

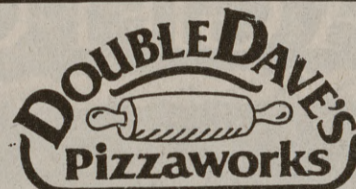
Until then, the Living Historians will be defending the Confederacy and doing their best to "whup" the Federals.

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