

Opinion

Guidelines for making college challenging

After five long years, my college career finally is coming to a close (I think). But before I go (and go I will), I'd like to pass along some tips to incoming students on how to survive college.



Michelle Powe

Upon arrival at school, freshman are bombarded with self-help guidelines on how to excel in college and enhance their career opportunities. These tips for success are designed to indoctrinate students into having good study habits. How dull.

I offer tips not for high achievement, but tips on how to squeak by with minimum effort.

Doing as little as possible and passing can be hard work. But with a lot of practice and perseverance, you too can be a successful underachiever.

First and foremost, take easy classes, and avoid courses with tough professors.

Register late and drop-add as much as possible.

Don't buy textbooks. If you really need to read part of a book, photocopy someone else's.

Skip classes frequently — you don't want to burn yourself out.

Skip the first week of classes — nothing important happens anyway.

Skip classes on Fridays — everyone else does.

Skip classes on Mondays — enjoy long weekends.

Never ask questions in class, except for ones like "Are the tests multiple choice?" or "Is the final exam comprehensive?"

Never let a professor think you're concerned about his class. NEVER talk to your professors after class or visit them in their offices.

Sit in the back of the class, out of the professor's line of sight.

Don't go to labs. Anything you have to know will be discussed in class.

Don't keep up with the reading assignments. Any reading that has to be done for an exam can be done the night before or the day of the exam.

Don't participate in class discussions. (This rule won't be difficult to oblige if you follow the previous rule.)

Don't do homework.

Put off all course work until the absolute last minute. Hand in all papers and projects at the last minute.

Exert only the minimum amount of effort on projects and papers. Surely you have better things to do with your time.

Put off all your difficult classes until your last semester.

Change majors as often as possible. Once you've settled on a major, change your degree plan once or twice.

Don't expend unnecessary energy. Accumulate the exact number of hours necessary for graduation — no more. Be sure that you need every hour you take your last semester for graduation.

Never lose sight of what you're here for — to have fun. Don't miss out on any of life's pleasures because of school work.

Go out often.

Watch television avidly.

Oversleep a lot.

If you really feel you need to go to class, sleep there.

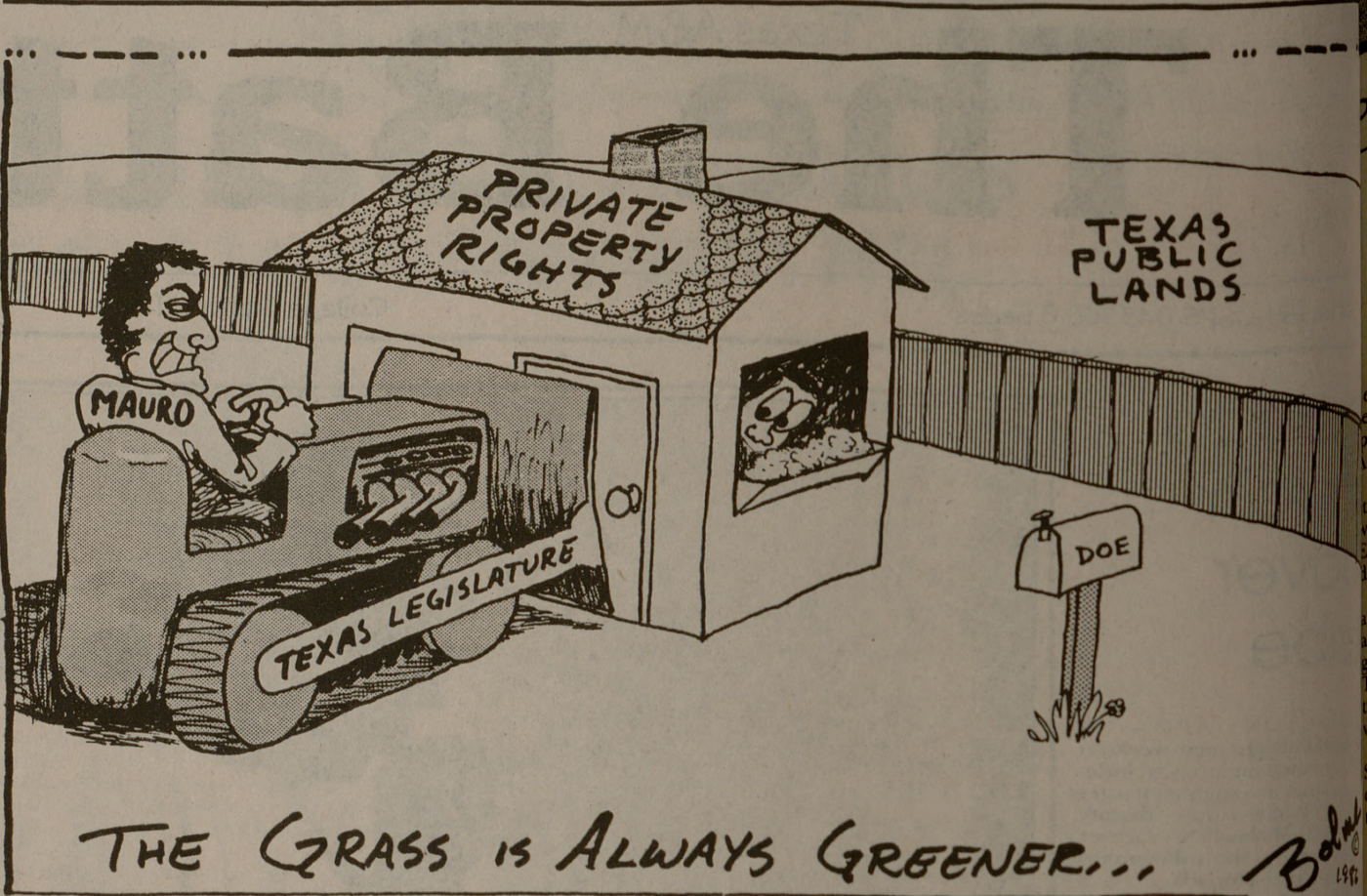
Put off planning your career until after graduation.

Put off planning for graduation until graduation.

Most importantly, be sure to have your grades sent to your local address, not to your parents' address.

Above all remember, no matter how bleak your academic future may look don't exert more the minimum amount of effort. If you follow these simple guidelines, you'll find college a much more challenging experience and a lot less work.

Michelle Powe is a senior journalism major and is editor for The Battalion.



Reagan popularity immune to political, economic woes



Richard Cohen

A staple of the old movie cartoons was the scene in which someone ran right off a cliff — and just kept on going until, of course, he looked down. Sometimes the cliff-runner was a fox and sometimes a roadrunner, but in real life he is starting to look amazingly like Ronald Reagan. Don't look down, Mr. President. There is bad news below.

The U.S. economy has all but stopped growing. Instead of expanding at the 4 or even 5 percent rate the administration once predicted, the economy has instead stalled — a growth rate for the last quarter of 1.1 percent. No one talks 4 percent anymore.

If it's growth you want, try the trade deficit. Despite a 30 percent decline in the value of the dollar when measured against the currencies of Japan or Europe, the trade deficit goes on its merry way: a record annual pace of \$170 billion predicted for this year after a record was set just last year. This means that in the short term at least, the attempt to make American goods cheaper abroad and foreign goods more expensive here has failed to change matters any. We still continue to import a lot more than we export, losing both income and jobs.

Factory orders are down — off by 0.3 percent in June, the fourth decline in the last six months. The nation's saving rate, blissfully impervious to the alleged benefits of supply-side economics, continues to fall under the Reagan administration instead of rising. Unemployment, while down a bit, remains high —

"All this economic bad news would have another president — any other president — reeling. Not so Reagan. He does not even take public notice of it."

around 7 percent, which is about where it was when Jimmy Carter went home to Plains, Ga. Business investment, maybe waiting for enactment of the tax bill, is flat and jobs continue to be lost in manufacturing industries. Big steel, for instance, is slowly going bust.

The stock market, of course, has taken notice. The Dow Jones average was off about 117 points in July — the largest monthly decline since 1973 when the country was entering a recession brought on by the onset of the energy crisis. Oil prices are down, inflation is down — but so is the nation's energy industry. As for the federal government, it continues to roll up record deficits — maybe as much as \$240 billion this fiscal year. Reagan, in his usual pose as a Washington outsider, continues to threaten to come to town and really knock heads.

All this economic bad news would have another president — any other president — reeling. Not so Reagan. He does not even take public notice of it. Instead, he tours the country proclaiming us Number One, renewing his faith in lower taxes as a panacea for all economic ills and extolling free trade while our trading partners maintain barriers. The public, it seems, loves it.

Reagan's popularity continues to be so high there is talk of amending the Constitution so he could run for a third term. He long ago bettered Dwight Eisenhower's second-term approval rating (53 percent to Reagan's 68). And if there were a forgiveness rating, his

other president could be close to perfect. What other president could one day deliver a speech rejecting sanctions against South Africa and the next day say he might accept them after all? Someone else would have either their competence or their principles challenged, but not Reagan.

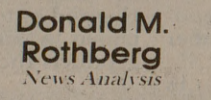
Maybe the economy will be a different matter — maybe. But even here it is doubtful whether the people will hold the president responsible for his own economic program. Take the matter of deficits — central to the economy, perhaps the cause of the economic malaise. Here is a man who campaigned against them, who thought them pretty close to sinful and who promised that he would make them disappear. What has happened? The total federal debt has more than doubled under Reagan, in large part because he made good on his other two promises: He cut taxes and increased military spending. Should we actually be approaching a recession? It would be hard to apply the standard Keynesian remedy of deficit spending. We took that pill when we weren't sick.

The political charms of Ronald Reagan are awesome. Even his critics have come to believe in him — believe in his luck, in his ability to be a talisman for all. But lately, especially when it comes to the economy, Reagan seems to be running out of luck. Like the fabled little animal in the cartoons, he has run out of room and right off the cliff. Don't look down, Mr. President. You'll see the economy down there.

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Who will befriend this constitutional orphan?

Friends of the 22nd Amendment are hard to find these days. Republicans are rushing ahead with a move to repeal the limit on presidential tenure. That ought to make President Reagan feel appreciated and Vice President Bush a bit uneasy.



Donald M. Rothberg
News Analysis

Democrats aren't enthusiastic about dropping the two-term limit in order to allow Reagan to run again in 1988. But even they agree that, in principle, the limit is a bad idea.

It's unlikely that Bush will lead a drive to retain the amendment even though he must wonder why so many of his fellow Republicans are jumping at a chance to let Reagan run again rather than face the prospect of Bush or anyone else leading the party into the 1988 elections.

Surely, somewhere there is someone willing to defend this constitutional orphan.

Thomas Mann, executive director of the American Political Science Association, is a ready source of academics who represents a full range of opinions on issues. But not on this issue.

The best he could do on behalf of the 22nd Amendment was suggest that "there are a lot of people who would say it hasn't been that significant. . . . It's problems in principle are more clear than its problems in practice."

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, thinks the opportunity for four more years of Ronald Reagan is ample rationale for amending the Constitution.

Cynics have suggested and Vander Jagt has denied that his effort, initially directed to financial contributors, was more of a fund-raising ploy than a serious campaign.

Whatever his motive in launching the drive, Vander Jagt claims the response has been enthusiastic. Hundreds of calls have come into the campaign committee and crowds have greeted Reagan with chants of "Four more years."

All of which must give the 75-year-old president a warm and cuddly feeling but is unlikely to convince him to try for a third term at the age of 77.

The president was one of the first officials to suggest the two-term limit was a bad idea that ought to be repealed, but he emphasized he thought it ought to benefit future presidents, not himself.

Former Senate Majority Leader Howard H. Baker has some interest in defending the 22nd Amendment. The Tennessee Republican is talking about running for president in 1988.

Would he defend the amendment?

No way. "I suppose the reason we Republicans were so hot about the 22nd Amendment is our fathers taught us to hate Franklin Roosevelt," said Baker. The limit was put into the Constitution in 1951, its adoption spurred by a reaction against the four terms voters gave Roosevelt.

History plays tricks, however, and the next two presidents popular enough to be seriously contenders for a third term were Republicans — Dwight D. Eisenhower and now Reagan.

Donald M. Rothberg is the chief political writer of The Associated Press.

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Rotating Government Cigarette Warnings:

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The U.S. Congress And Jesse Helms Want You To Subsidize The Tobacco Industry.

Don Regan Wants The Surgeon General Not To Testify Before Congress On Banning Tobacco Ads.

Your Tax Dollars At Work. Light Up.

The Department of Health And Human Services Thanks You For Not Smoking. However, The Department of Agriculture Will Send Millions To Tobacco Farmers.

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