

Opinion

Freshmen, harken to these helpful hints

Summer school at Texas A&M is a time for many to begin their first semester of college life. These first timers are bombarded with information on how to be a good student and how to live properly at college.



Richard Williams

When I arrived at A&M I decided to forget the information and forge my own path. My path probably won't get you into law school, but it promises to provide you with a load of fun. (Unless you flunk out and suffer the wrath of the upset parent.)

Richard's rule #1: Never go to class when the weather is bad. Temperatures above 90 and below 70 are definite signs of bad weather. Another sure sign of bad weather can be found on the Weather Channel. Watch the Weather Channel religiously.

If the weather channel shows clouds building in California you had better stay away from class. Storm fronts move fast and you don't want to get caught in the rain.

Rule #2: Never buy books for a class until the day before the test. The money you would have spent on books at the beginning of the semester can be put to better use now. Parties can be considered a better use.

Rule #3: Never study until the night before a test. Following rule number two can help you with this rule. If you wait until the night before a test you have cleared up much of your valuable time for more important college matters — parties.

Hitting the books the night before the test also gives you less time to become more confused about the material and should translate into better grades than the more conventional methods urged by A&M.

If you find it necessary to study any earlier than rule number three allows it

is important to follow the "can method of studies."

The can method of studies is a secret method of obtaining high grades used by the professionals. First, buy at least one case of your favorite alcoholic beverage. Next, sit down at a sturdy table and begin to study. Each time you learn a new fact or theory drink one can of your favorite beverage.

This method gives the average college student more incentive (larger cans provide even more incentive) to learn new and interesting things. However, non-professionals must remember that learning how to turn a page or highlight a sentence does not qualify for drinking.

Rule #4: Classes that meet before 11 a.m. or after 2 p.m. are never to be taken. It is impossible to get enough sleep when you must get to class by 10 a.m. Sleep is very important for students. It is also impossible to maintain the proper social life if you are in class after 2 p.m. Without the proper social life a student will not be a well-rounded person.

Rule #5: Classes that meet at 11 a.m. interfere with the watching of certain soap operas. Watching soap operas is important as it provides the average college student with the material necessary for intelligent conversation with members of the opposite sex. Remember, a student with no social life is not a well-rounded person.

Rule #6: Signing up for night classes is a must if your social life is suffering. If you actually go to class it will take your mind off of the terrible suffering you're undergoing. The classes could also turn into a great place to meet people who are ready to go drink after sitting through an hour of some class no one wanted to take.

Rule #7: Never sign-up for a class that a friend has said was a "blow-off class" without first doing some serious checking. Any class that requires reading, writing or thought does not qualify as a blow-off class. You could fail those classes.

Rule #8: Sign-up for as many blow-off classes as possible. These classes can

raise the grade point ratio and you to put your time to better use. Rule number two.

Rule #9: If you find yourself in a strange situation of actually standing in a class that meets these strict standards do not despair. Richard's rules state a student should not go to any special days. (A special day is classified as any day in which the sun rises or the water temperature in a pool is just right.)

Rule #10: Ask parents for money constantly. This means you will receive money more often. If you flunk at A&M you will then be able to tell your parents by saying you did not receive enough money to buy the proper supplies or attend the necessary sessions.

Final rule: After flunking at A&M it is important to tell anyone who asks "How is college?" that college is great if it wasn't for the classes.

Richard Williams is a senior agricultural journalism major and editor of The Battalion.

Mail Call

One man, one vote

Editor:

As a concerned citizen, a former student, a veterinarian (Class of '41) and former staff and faculty member (1946-67) — now retired — I am adding my view to the protest concerning the selection process for a new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Let me say that this letter is strictly my thoughts on the situation and that I have not been approached by any student or faculty member — on this I will take an oath.

I understand that approximately 80 percent of the veterinary faculty are opposed to the "selection process" for the new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. I commend them for standing up and being counted.

My question to your administration is simply: why were two especially qualified and interested veterinarians on the present college faculty bypassed in the selection of a new dean? One applicant in particular has an outstanding record in developing his department and a long history of service to Texas A&M. He is known well for his accomplishments and has an outstanding record of working with scientific and administrative people both inside and outside of A&M.

Texas A&M graduates have long distinguished themselves — as the public knows — the world over in all walks of life. Why cannot they serve their alma mater if they are distinguished? It seems to me that distinguished A&M graduates — especially veterinarians — now days are "prophets without honor in their own country."

I hope this matter of dean selection, besides being of great concern to the veterinary faculty, is of concern to other A&M faculties as well as to Texas veterinarians and former A&M graduates.

I understand that the faculty of the Texas A&M College of Medicine has a strong voice in the selection of their dean — so I can't understand why the same rule doesn't apply to the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Ted E. Franklin D.V.M., M.S.

Dine not, tithe not

EDITOR:

When the Rudder Tower dining facility was converted to a private faculty lounge, I felt cheated. To think a state-funded, public facility could be sealed off from the taxpayersby self-centered civil servants made me ill. But as time passed, I found other injustices to worry over and quit thinking about it, until my father (Class of '44) dropped into town.

He was headed to Houston with my grandfather. Dad called my office and asked me to meet him at the "cafeteria on top of Rudder Tower." I would rather have taken a "whipping with a stick" than tell him what had happened to his long-time favorite eatery.

I really thought he was going to have another stroke! First, there was silence on the line. Then, slowly picking up steam, he proceeded into a fine dissertation on the evils of bureaucracy and academic excess. He touched on everything from overpaid, underworked instructors to the eventual deterioration of the whole system. Remember, this is from a man who was a contemporary of the building's namesake.

I personally am not opposed to a faculty lounge and know a lot of hard-working people at A&M, but I do miss the tower dining and wish they could have usurped another location. But one thing is for sure: Texas A&M better not count on my Dad's little tithe this year.

John R. Clark '85

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. 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 be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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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 Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.



How smart are today's animals? Just ask that brainy Catfish

Newsweek magazine recently came out with a cover story entitled "How smart Are Animals?"



Lewis Grizzard

Pretty smart, concluded the reporters, who told of chimps who know sign language, a horse that could count and pigeons with remarkable memories.

I wasn't surprised to find out animals know as much as they do because I live with Catfish, the black Lab, whose intelligence often is astounding.

Even when he was a puppy, he was bright. When he committed an indiscretion on my living room rug, I said to him, sternly, "Catfish, never do that on my living room rug again!"

Sure enough, the next time he didn't go on the living room rug. He went on the rug in the den.

He also learned at a very early age

that if he kept whining, no matter how long I ignored him, I finally would give in and share the food on my plate with him. He's especially fond of pizza.

As he got older Catfish became even smarter. He discovered that twice a week, at approximately 6 a.m., a guy shows up in a truck to take away my garbage.

After that, at the precise moment the garbage truck drove into my driveway, Catfish would come to my bed and bark directly into my ear at a decibel level only slightly lower than a train wreck to awaken me to the fact a stranger was making off with our garbage.

It is only recently Catfish stopped doing that. Once he heard the Supreme Court had ruled a person's garbage is not private, he figured why bother protecting ours any longer.

Catfish's vocabulary amazes me.

He knows the word, "go," for instance. When I say that word regardless of context, he immediately races to the garage and scratches on my car door. My dog is making Earl Scheib, the famous car painter, a fortune.

Catfish also knows the word, "no." Whenever I say that word, it's as if to ignore me completely.

Catfish even knows the word, "trouser leg." He hears that, he knows the pizza involved, and he drools on trouser leg.

What Catfish also knows is how to get to me. He does it with those eyes.

How do dogs know they can get thing they want if they just look at with those sad, loving eyes that "What about me?" and plead, "I don't go."

Catfish does it to me when I'm him. Those eyes.

"I've got to go. It's business."

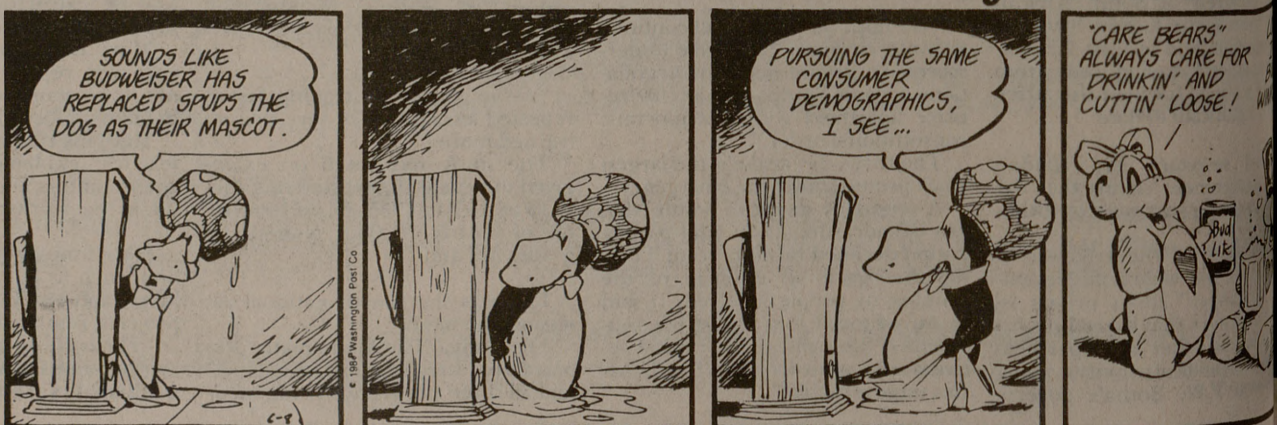
Those eyes.

"OK, you can invite all your friends over for pizza and moon-howling. I'm gone. I'll call Domino's from the port."

It's tough living with an animal smart enough to know a sucker who sees one.

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BLOOM COUNTY



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