

**Big welcome**

During the summer, workers from Stabler Sign Co. in Bryan put up a sign — "Welcome to Aggie-

land, Home of the 12th Man." The sign is the class gift from the Class of '88.

Battalion file photo

# Student apathy appalling but you will get used to it

Four years ago, I entered Texas A&M to study engineering. I expected to be challenged by professors who would demand my best. I expected to be surrounded by dedicated students who would stimulate me to greater achievement. I thought college would develop my mind.

Two semesters in college was enough to deliver me from this delusion.

At first, the apathy of students toward acquiring knowledge appalled me.

The Latin root for "student" means to be zealous for something, in this case for knowledge.

Many Aggies were zealous only for partying and football games, and I hadn't realized that these things were worthy of such diligent study.

I wondered why it was necessary to come to college to study them.

I discovered it was necessary to come to get an education.

Actually, the education itself doesn't matter as long as students acquire a piece of paper that says they have an education.

This is what magically opens the

door to what they really want: a job.

Even though most jobs don't really require a college education, everyone still expects you to have that little piece of paper that says you have an education. If you don't, they won't hire you.

I was not so enlightened when I began by study of the mysteries of engineering.

I thought I would have to work hard.

But soon I found that engineering hardly merits its reputation for academic rigor.

The curriculum includes basic math and science courses whose theoretical content is greatly diluted.

Because engineering is supposed to be practical, studying theory is discouraged.

Heaven help the professor who dares require that his students derive a formula or understand the theory behind it.

All that is truly necessary is to learn how to plug those numbers into the proper sequence of formulas in order to arrive at the correct answer.

For those who can't handle this,

there is always a handy manual to lean on.

Besides, the professor often dizes the incompetence by the wretched test scores of spectability.

I thought that engineers displayed a disdain for the use of the English Language.

Again and again I hear abuse it and then excuse the saying, "I'm an engineer, I supposed to use good English."

This is the result of training leaves them almost wholly of any subject other than neering.

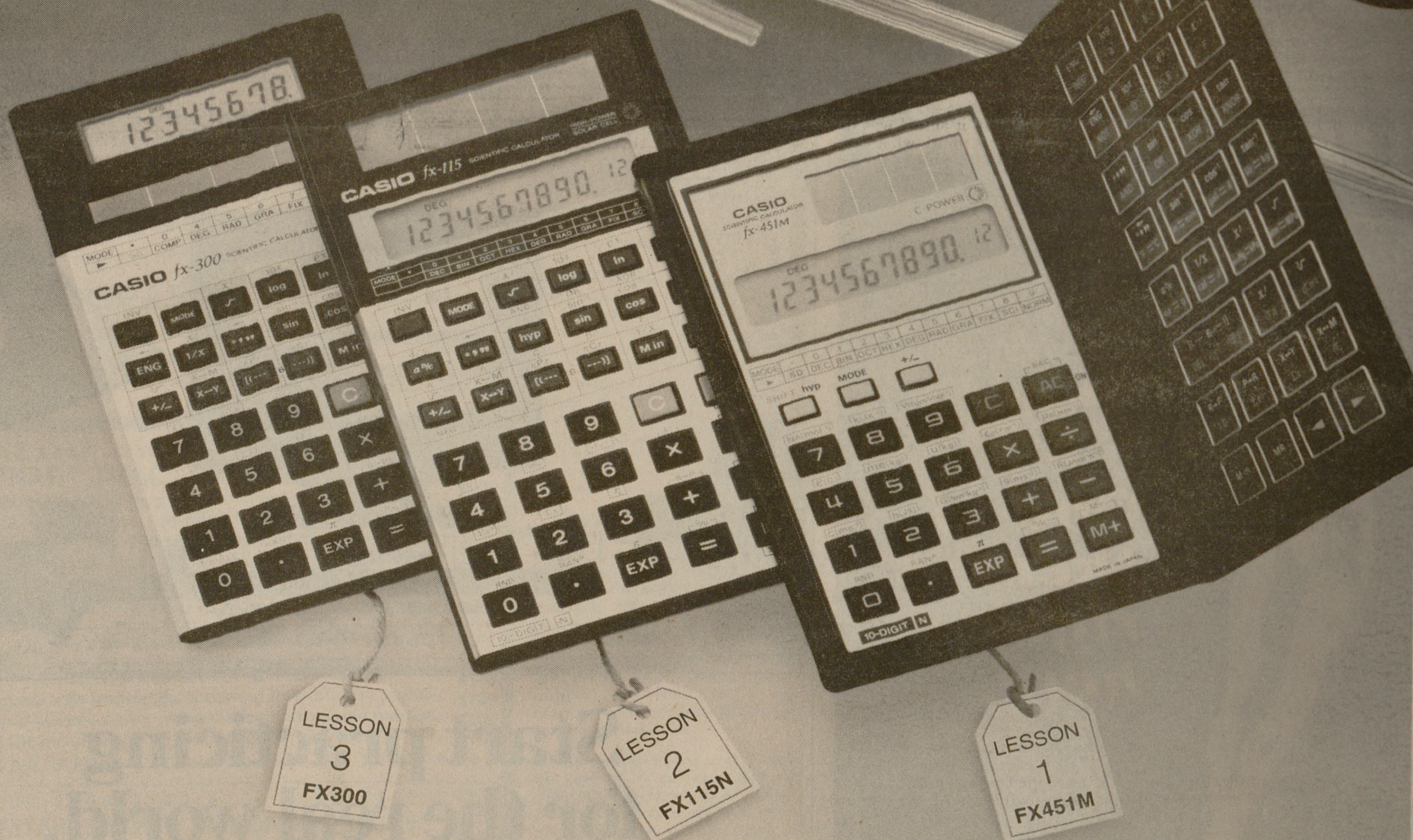
Why should they learn if they won't need it on the tually failed to appreciate portant considerations.

These attitudes and narriculum encouraged me to liberal arts after my sophomore year.

As much as engineering ested me, I could not be thought of being a

See Apathy, page 6B

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