

# Apathy

(Continued from page 2B)

cruncher tied for the rest of my life to an HP calculator.

Besides, history had always been my first love, and I still hoped to find the education that I had first come for.

I discovered the same kind of students in liberal arts.

There they seek the professor with the shortest reading list and the multiple-choice exams.

God forbid that they should have to read more than two books, take essay tests, or (horror of horrors) write a paper.

As a matter of course, they generally avoid real math and science courses too.

Engineers are not alone in desiring curved tests.

In my second-semester Latin class, we had a graduate instructor from Belgium who expected us to learn Latin and whose test reflected that expectation.

The class did poorly on the first exam and asked her if she would curve the grades.

With bewilderment on her face, she asked what a curve was. My classmates were shocked and have maligned her ever since. Poor woman! She mistakenly thought she should teach us something.

I had thought that a good student would try to take the toughest professors who would truly challenge him. But again and again, I saw students drop a course in droves if they had the misfortune of getting a professor who expected them to learn something in order to pass the course. Those students knew that there was more to education than book learning, while my concept of education was apparently hopelessly outmoded.

In all fairness, I must confess the desire to learn does remain in the classroom. Students still learn the answers to the important questions of life: "What is the test? Is the final comprehensive exam?"

Intellectual curiosity is alive and well at A&M.

In addition to disdaining learning, many students hate and those who excel. I know several people whose classmates have hated them because their superior grades wrecked the class. Have mercy! We did not know a sin to do our best. Besides, we take comfort in the fact that we would put us to shame in the 101.

Refusing to take responsibility for their failures, these same students who hate excellence always have an excuse for their own poor performance. Rarely have I heard a student confess that he earned the grade on his test because he failed to study. Perhaps a general lack of study explains the universal wish "good grades" before a test. Subconsciously, students know they will need it.

Though an oasis still exists in the arid desert at A&M for those who want them, I came to see that I had been wrong to expect others to develop my mind. It's not so important that one may find an English teacher who respects the English language. So what if they can read their own language?

The important thing is to get a little paper that says you're educated and entitles you to a job.

I must confess. After I saw the light, I cheated. I could not completely give up my ideals, so I lied a little on my own. I hope my body minds.

Brian Frederick, Oct. 20, 1987



## Vantage point

The Academic Building fits the opening at the bottom of the Ford D. Albritton Bell Tower, yielding this view to the observer. The view is from the west side of campus down Old Main Drive. The tower, built in 1984, was dedicated on Oct. 6 before a Texas Tech vs. A&M foot-

ball game. Construction was held up for a while because of difficulties with the bell shipment from France. Also, the size of the tower delayed construction because it was difficult to have workers working in the same area at the same time.

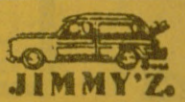
Battalion file photo

Men's SUPER Heavyweight Sweatshirts - Assorted Novelty University Prints - NOW \$12.99 Reg. \$30.00

Men's SUPER Heavyweight Sweatshirts - Assorted Novelty University Prints - NOW \$12.99 Reg. \$30.00



**BIG BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE!!!**



# CLOTHING CONCEPTS

Presents A MANUFACTURER'S DIRECT CLOTHING SALE

## ONE DAY ONLY!

Tee Shirts \$5.99 Sweatshirts \$9.99 Rugbys Values to \$30	FASHION TOPS SWEATERS SWEATSHIRTS <b>40% -50% OFF</b> Regular Retail	AUTHENTIC SPORTWEAR NON-SPORTWEAR SWEATSHIRTS
Men's OCEAN PACIFIC <b>SHORT SLEEVE TEES \$3.99</b>	Men's VUARNET Novelty Tees Unique Prints! Now \$9.99 If perfect to \$24	Men's Reebok Active Tees <b>\$5.99</b> Irregulars
Tommy Hilfiger Men's Sportshirts Current Styles NOW \$12.99 Reg. 38.00	Men's LIZ CLAIBORNE Novelty Casual Tops Latest exciting styles by Liz NOW \$5.99 If perfect \$28	Men's adidas Special Adidas Buy! Assorted Sportshirts & Novelty Tees NOW \$3.99-\$5.99 Values to \$30
THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMAL Authentic Novelty TEES NOW \$3.99 Reg. \$12	GUMBY'S • FLINTSTONES Latest Print Tees Outrageous Surf Prints NOW \$5.99 Reg. \$13	

adidas KangaROOS NIKE PUMA

L.A. GEAR MEN'S - LADIES' ETONIC

Leather Basketball • Tennis • Running • Aerobic • Track

**SHOES \$19.99 to \$29.99**

Hi Tops & Lo Tops  
 New Balance NOW \$29.99

**ONE DAY ONLY!**  
 Friday, September 9th  
 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

VISA MasterCard

**UNIVERSITY INN**  
 Main Ballroom  
 (formerly Ramada Inn)  
 410 So. Texas & University Dr.  
 College Station  
 Park & Enter South Entrance



**MINI ADS, BUT REAL HEAVYWEIGHTS WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT.**

No matter what you've got to say or sell, our Classifieds can help you do the big job.

**Battalion Classifieds**  
 845-2611