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I never imagined the answer to A&M's woes was so easy



Hal L. Hammons
Sports viewpoint

There are many great and mystical questions that perplex us as we walk along our trek down life's road — which, by the way, is gravel-surfaced. "Who am I?" "Why am I here?" "How can 15,000 blue-stickered cars fit in 3,000 parking spaces?"

The way can be much more comfortable after the realization that many, if not all, of the answers to such questions are much easier than it would have been expected. The answers to the above posers, for example are: "Check your driver's license," "Because you are not anywhere else," and "Divine intervention."

Simple, huh? I have become convinced that the majority of life's ever-elusive answers are in truth right beneath our noses, only waiting for us to take a good whiff.

Revelation time: I recently have been informed that this also applies to our woes concerning the all-seeing Eye who spawns such perpetual fear and dread in all of us.

No, not that Eye. The NCAA. National Communists Against Athletes, as Brian Bosworth termed it. The team of investigators infiltrating athletic departments state-wide with industrial-strength disinfectant, looking to rid the nation — or at least the Southwest Conference — of inappropriate recruiting, enticing and back-scratching.

There is an answer. It is simple. It is practical. And it will work. Guaranteed.

This revelation came to me by way of one of our letters to the editor. I would have printed it and imparted its words of truth to you all, but unfortunately the writer is from San Antonio, and we could not reach him or her to verify that he/she actually wrote the letter. *Battalion* letter policy requires positive verification of all letters to prevent someone from writing something asinine and signing someone else's name to it.

It's a shame, too. You would have enjoyed the letter. The basic problem, you see, is that we have been mistaken about what the problem is in the first place. It's not the players, the coaches, the administrators, the boosters, or even the system itself. It's the *media* that's to blame for it all.

We have been wasting our efforts on a problem that isn't going to get any better, the writer states. It's pointless to try to keep people and programs from cheating. It's going to happen. Sad, but true.

Doesn't sound like much of a solution, you might say.

Well, that's only the definition of the actual problem. The solution: Quit talking about it so much. Gag the investigative reporters. Stifle the muck-rakers. Tell 'em all to go expose Geraldo Rivera or something. But keep their collective nose out of SWC football.

It's our fault, speaking generally for the sorry lot that is the Texas media circus, that such fiascos as Saturday disaster in Stillwater happen. It's our fault the U of Texas has fallen to a state where a Division I-AA school like North Texas can take the famous Longhorns to the brink of the branding corral. Shoot, it's probably our fault Rice lost to Southwestern Louisiana, too.

You see, our overactive curiosity gland turns prospective All-America backs and linemen away from our institutions. They'd rather go someplace like the University of Oklahoma, where there's no danger of NCAA probation.

You can understand that, I am confident. It's obvious this Einstein intellect, who is also blessed with the pen of Poe, is playing with a different number of cards than the rest of us. Of that there can be no question.

It wouldn't be so bad, you see, if those supposedly "squeaky-clean" programs were really so high and holy. But the integrity of coaches such as Notre Dame's Lou Holtz and Penn State's Joe Paterno is completely and totally a media creation.

Everybody does it, reveals the writer. "The truth is," says the budding sage, "the problem is just as bad in every other conference."

Oh, to have this person's sources! If I did, this whole communist system would be exposed for what it really is.

But the problem is, he says (or she says), that writers and broadcasters in other states won't write about the stuff that goes on there. They would lose too much advertising revenue from hacked-off regional universities. They know not to stomp on toes.

Texas media, it would seem, either doesn't know or doesn't care. We are willing to tear down schools in other parts of the state who might compete too aggressively with Lone Star U. If you see, as I do now, that every region of the state feels the same way and will react accordingly, you will understand the state of the state.

"Shut up!" he says to the Texas media. With less said on the subject, the conference can elevate itself once again to the stature that it should have.

I'm sure he'd agree with me when I say the program here would be found to be just as strong as that of, say, the University of Miami. All it would take would be a

See Hammons, page 13

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Thurs, Oct 13, 20, 27 Nov 3
6:30-9pm
\$16/student

Calligraphy:
Wed, Sept 28 Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 2, 9
7-9pm
\$23/student

Drawing:
Mon, Sept 26 Oct 3, 10, 17, 24
6-9pm
\$25/student

Jewelry Casting Seminar:
Sat. & Sun. Oct 1 & 2
9am-12noon & 1-4pm each day
\$38/student

Jewelry Construction Seminar:
Sat. & Sun. Sept 24 & 25
9am-12noon & 1-4pm each day
\$38/student

Stained Glass:
Mon, Oct 24, 31 Nov 7, 14, 21
6-9pm
\$25/student

Etched Glass:
Tues, Oct 18
6-9pm
\$8/student

Painting With Oils:
Sun, Oct 16, 23, 30 Nov 6
2-6pm
\$27/student

Potpourri:
Tues, Oct 25, Nov 1
6-8pm
\$12/student

NEEDLEWORK

Crochet:
Wed, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 2, 9
7-8:30pm
\$18/student

Counted Cross Stitch:
Tues, Sept 27 Oct 4, 11, 18
7-9pm
\$15/student

Embroidery - Hardanger:
Tues, Nov 15 & 17
6-9pm
\$10/student

WOODWORKING

Beginning Woodworking:
Sun, Oct 23, 30 Nov 6, 13
6:30-9pm
\$27/student

Decoy Carving:
Tues, Oct 18, 25 Nov 1, 8
6:30-9:00pm
\$25/student

1988 FALL SCHEDULE

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MSC Basement

PHOTOGRAPHY

Beginning Photography:
Mon, Oct 24, 31 Nov 7, 14
6-9pm
\$20/student

The Visual Art Of Photography:
Thurs, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
7-9pm
\$17/student

Studio Photography:
Sat, Nov 12, 19
9-12noon
\$25/student

Beginning Black & White Darkroom:
Wed, Sept 28 Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 2, 9
6-9pm

Thurs, Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
6-9pm

Thurs, Nov 3, 10, 17
6-9pm
\$25/student

Advanced Black & White Darkroom:
Tues, Oct 18, 25 Nov 1
6-9pm
\$25/student

DANCE

Advanced Country & Western
Wed, Sept 28 Oct 5, 12, 19, 26
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student

Beginning Jitterbug:
Mon, Sept 26 Oct 3, 10, 17, 24
7:00-8:15pm
\$15/student

Ballroom Dancing:
Thurs, Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
7:00-8:30pm
\$15/student

Hawaiian Dance:
Wed, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 2, 9
8:20-9:20pm
\$10/student

Middle Eastern Bellydance:
M/W Oct 3 - Nov 9
7:10-8:10pm
\$20/student

Bellydance/Exercise:
M/W, Oct 3 - Nov 9
6-7pm
\$20/student

LANGUAGES

Conversational French:
M/W, Oct 3 - Nov 9
6:30-8:00pm
\$25/student

Conversational German:
T/Th, Sept 27 - Nov 3
6:30-8:00pm
\$25/student

Conversational Hebrew:
M/W, Oct 10 - Nov 16
7:30-9:00pm
\$25/student

Conversational Italian:
M/W, Oct 3 - Nov 9
6-7:30pm
\$25/student

Conversational Japanese I:
M/W, Sept 26 - Nov 2
6-7:30pm
\$25/student

Conversational Japanese II:
T/Th, Sept 27 - Nov 3
6-7:30pm
\$25/student

Conversational Spanish:
M/W, Oct 17 - Nov 21
7:30-9pm
\$25/student

Int Conversational Spanish:
M/W, Oct 17 - Nov 21
6-7:30pm
\$25/student

Conversational Chinese:
M/W, Oct 3 - Nov 9
6-7:30pm
\$25/student

POTTERY

Pottery - Wheel Throwing:
Thurs, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov 3, 10
5-7pm
\$25/student

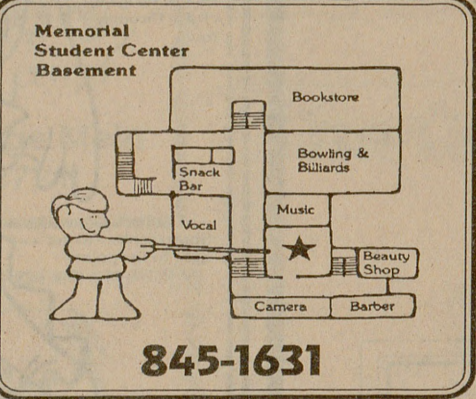
Thurs, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov 3, 10
7:30-9:30pm
\$25/student

WINE & SPIRITS

Wine Appreciation:
Wed, Sept 21, 28 Oct 5, 12
7-8:30pm
\$25/student

Advanced Wine Appreciation:
Wed, Sept 21, 28 Oct 5, 12
8:30-10pm
\$25/student

Modern Homebrewing Practices:
Thurs, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov 3, 10
6-9pm
\$30/student



GUITAR

Beginning Guitar:
T/Th, Oct 18, 20, 25, 27 Nov 1, 3, 8, 10
7-8:30pm
\$25/student

Intermediate Guitar:
T/Th, Oct 18, 20, 25, 27 Nov 1, 3, 8, 10
8:30-10pm
\$23/student

BUSINESS

Beginning Accounting
Wed, Sept 28 - Nov 16
6-8pm
\$28/student

Buying Your First Home:
Thurs, Sept 22, 29 Oct 6, 13, 20
7-9pm
\$18/student

Business Etiquette
Thurs, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
8-9pm
\$10/student

Basics of Investing:
Tues, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 1
7:30-9pm
\$15/student

Creative Writing:
Tues, Sept 27 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 1
6:30-9:00pm
\$25/student

Communication Skills:
Tues, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 1
7-9pm
\$16/student

COMPUTERS

Learn the Macintosh Computer:
Tues, Oct 25 Nov 1, 8, 15
8-9:45pm
\$15/student

HEALTH

CPR:
T/Th, Oct 11 & 13
6-10pm

M/W, Nov 14 & 16
6-10pm
\$10/student

Stop Smoking Now!
Mon, Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 Nov 7, 28
7:30-8:30pm
\$18/student

First Aid:
Tues, Sept 27, 29 Oct 4, 6
6-9pm
\$20/student

SPECIAL INTEREST

Auto Mechanics:
Wed, Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26
6-8pm
\$18/student

Camcorder Techniques and VCR Technology:
Tues, Sept 27 Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 1
7-9pm
\$20/student

Bike Maintenance:
Tues, Oct 18, 25 Nov 1, 8, 15
7-9pm
\$16/student

LANDSCAPING

Home Landscaping:
Thurs, Sept 22, 29 Oct 6, 13
7-9:30pm (7-10:30 on Oct 13)
\$19/student

Thurs, Oct 20, 27 Nov 3, 10
7-9:30pm (7-10:30 on Nov 10)
\$19/student

Nonstudent fee is an additional \$2 per class.

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