

Opinion

We must be nuts to put up with squirrels

I've heard people complain that Aggie football players and their coach strut around campus like they own the place. Some people gripe about how the Corps of Cadets acts like it runs the University, while others moan about the Greeks taking over. But these delusions of grandeur just aren't so.



Anthony Wilson

In fact, not even Dr. William Mobley, Texas A&M's president, nor the illustrious Board of Regents have free reign of campus. Only one group has complete freedom of what it does on campus — the squirrels. That's right, the squirrels rule Aggieland.

Stop and think about it. The A&M campus is squirrel heaven. There's only one dog on campus and it's always kept on a leash by the Corps of Cadets. There's plenty of trees. And there's certainly no shortage of nuts in Aggieland.

I'm starting to wonder whether the squirrels around here aren't really reincarnations of the likes of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, General Earl Rudder, and E. King Gill. The squirrels can do anything they want and go anywhere they want without anyone taking offense. They can even walk on the Memorial Student Center grass without anyone throwing a tantrum.

Yes, the squirrels can get away with anything at A&M. And don't think that they don't know it.

I've been watching them especially close since the beginning of school and I've started to see a pattern to their rather obnoxious behavior. For example, the other day I saw a woman almost run down a squirrel while riding her moped to class.

And boy, was that squirrel peeved.



You should have seen him blow his top. He waved his little balled-up fist and waded his little balled-up fist at the woman while something like this was probably going through his mind:

"Geez, almost squashed like a grape by a fat chick on a moped! Yo skeezer, why don't you get your burly butt off that thing and walk to class! Is that cellulite on your thighs or are you wearing jello pants? Crimony, that bow's so big it ought to have its own area code! Of course, only a head that big and that flat could support that Rhode Island-sized kite of a head ornament!"

I've noticed that the squirrels' favorite pastime is hunting down Reveille and taunting her unmercifully. Unless she learns to climb trees, poor Rev, like the quizzillions of canines before her, doesn't stand a chance of ever catching a squir-

rel — a fact their twisted, demented little nukes abuse daily.

They sit in a tree, throw acorns to get Rev's attention and say things such as this:

"Hey Reveille, Morris the Cat and me are up here looking at nude pictures of your mother! Why don't you come up and join us? And what's this I hear about you, Spuds MacKenzie and some kind of sort-of affair? Spuds is a bitch — a real bow-wow with a capital B. Oh, and by the way, I hear congratulations are in order. You won the ugliest mascot in the Southwest Conference for the 28th straight year. You know, everyone has the right to be ugly, but you're abusing it, babe!"

But nothing ruffles a squirrel's dander more than someone who acts like he's never seen a squirrel before and

naturally wants to pet it. Usually this dolt is a freshman male trying to impress a female companion by showing her how brave he is and how much animals love him.

The squirrel just sits back on his haunches, rolls his eyes and thinks to himself:

"Jump back, Junior. And keep those hands to yourself. No telling where those things have been. You probably had your finger up your nose to the third joint ten minutes ago. Why don't you use that campus map to find your way back to your dorm room so that you can change into something that matches. Jiminy Christmas, you must know as much about squirrels as you do about fashion. I could be an AIDS carrier, fella. Talk about a real turn-off for Matilda Dewberry there. I just hope you

two never have a child. That kid would be the world's first walking condom.

However, the squirrels do put up with a degree of niceness to us when they think we can satisfy one of their primal needs. For instance, a male squirrel will really turn on the charm machine when he spots a lovely, young coed strutting across campus. He'll scamper out in front of her to get her attention, play the cutesy bit to the hilt. But all the while he'll be thinking:

"OWWWWWW-OW! You know I love to get you back to my pad at the Century Tree — a.k.a. Ectasy H.Q. — the mere sight of you sends enough hormones coursing through my veins to launch the space shuttle. So if you want to swing on a star, carry moonbeams home in a jar and be better off than you are — well come on and I'll show you my scars."

But a squirrel's flamboyance and high confidence levels can sometimes get him in trouble. Last year, one kamikaze squirrel caused a blackout on campus by flinging himself into a generator at the physical plant. But before this daredevil's death-defying stunt, in which he ended up looking like the bottom of the first batch of chocolate chip cookies your girlfriend ever made you, he was probably saying to himself:

"That pencil-neck Rocky thinks he's hot tacos just because he can fly and the star of his own cartoon show. He who couldn't outshine a moose with a botomy. But this stunt will really make waves. Probably make headlines in The Battalion. I can see it now — 'Squirrel blacks out Aggieland.' What here goes. KOW-A-BUNGAAA (Explosion and sparks) YEOWWWWW HOLY & *%\$%^&*"

So the next time you're crossing campus and you spot one of those crazy, fuzzy-tailed nutcrackers, don't be fooled. They know who's boss around Aggieland.

Anthony Wilson is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor at The Battalion.

Mail Call

A&M insensitive to others' beliefs

EDITOR:
The graduation ceremonies on Aug. 12 left both positive and negative impressions with me.
It was wonderful to see the great diversity of backgrounds among the graduates. A glance at the program showed that people had come from all over the world to study at Texas A&M. What a tribute to the quality of education offered here! And what a great chance for our Texas students to learn world culture, geography, and politics firsthand!
This same diversity of student backgrounds was ignored by the person giving the invocation and benediction. The evening's objective was to honor the academic achievements of hundreds of graduates — all of the graduates, including the non-Christians. I admire those who witness to their faith in Jesus Christ, but this was not the right time or place. At a public university, shouldn't prayers be sensitive to the variety of personal beliefs held by those being honored? In the spirit of brotherhood, wouldn't references to our Creator, or God, or our Divine Master be much more courteous and just as reverent?
I'm not saying that we must dilute our personal faith and values in order to live in harmony. Hold steadfast to the truth as you see it. But if A&M is to become a world-class university, all who are a part of it must move beyond a patronizing tolerance to a true cherishing of the diversity within the famed Aggie unity.

Sara Puig Laas

Graduation policy stinks

EDITOR:
As a graduating senior, I am disappointed with many aspects of the adopted graduation policy:
1. I haven't worked for four years to walk across the stage not really knowing if I am actually graduating. What happens if I get a D in one of my major classes and am not eligible for commencement?
2. We will not be receiving our official diplomas when we graduate. Oh sure, they're going to mail us our official seals a few weeks later. The Acme School of Do-It-Yourself diplomas will do the same for \$19.95. They even send you a free set of knives if you order now.
3. Finals are scheduled to last until the day of graduation. I have a final scheduled for the morning of my graduation. "Sorry, Grandma, I can't spend any time with you because I have to study for a final. Thanks for coming 1,000 miles, though."
The main excuse I get for each of these complaints is "That is the way most schools do it." Since when has A&M been like most schools?

Julia Lenzer '88
Accompanied by 74 signatures

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

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SAT just too darn easy for white males

There has been a great deal of discussions recently concerning the fairness of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), which is used to determine how many smart young people have.



Lewis Grizzard

Studies have indicated white males do better on the test than other groups, indicating bias.

So, what are we going to do about that?
Are we just going to sit back and say, "Well, I guess that just means white males are smarter than anybody else?"

Of course not. That would make us racist, sexist swine who probably go to see movies like "The Last Temptation of Christ" and aren't offended by it.

What we need to do about all this is quite clear to me. Why somebody doesn't do well on a test is because he or she doesn't know the answers to certain questions.

The way to get around that is to ask each individual only those questions he or she knows the answers to.

That way, everybody — regardless of age, race, sex, religious affiliation or hat size — would make a perfect score every time, thus virtually wiping out racism and sexism as we know it today.

The new testing system would work like this.

Each individual test-taker would meet first with a test-monitor. To assure any further bias, the monitor would be of the same sex, race, etc. of that individual.

Together they would go over the test. The questions the individual didn't know the answers to would be thrown out in the spirit of fairness, equality and keeping hope alive.

After the individual finished his or her (or its) test, the monitor would grade it and then smile and say, "Congratulations, Arlene (Jesse, Juan, Running Buffalo, Chang, Conshita), you have taken the test and you have aced that sucker!"

These individuals could then go on to

the college or university of their choice and become rocket scientists.

The only remaining question here is what do we do about the white males who've been hogging all the good grades on the SAT exams.

Although I'm a white male myself, still think we should be made to pay price for having the test geared to us these years.

We should have no pre-test interview. We should not have the questions we don't know the answers to thrown out.

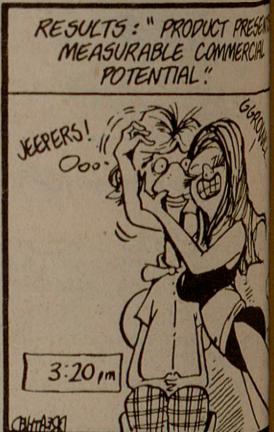
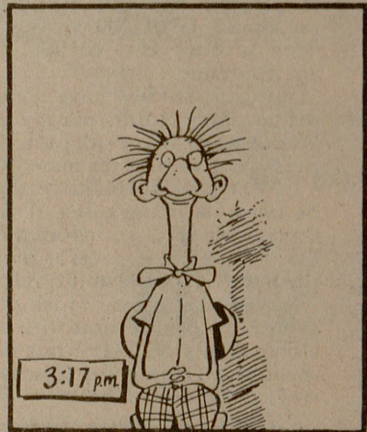
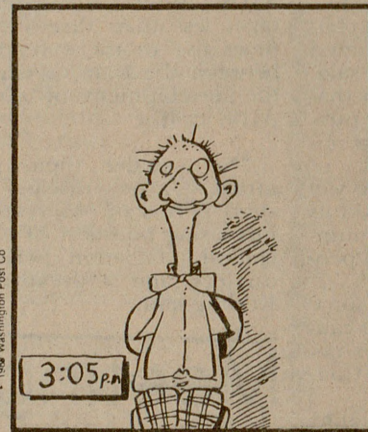
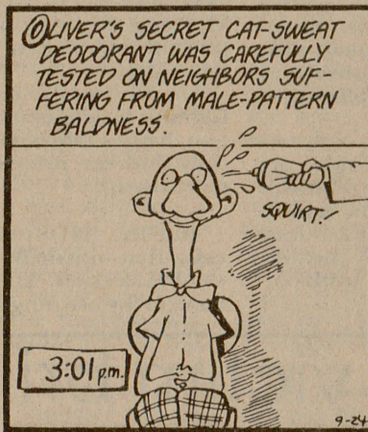
We should still have to struggle and sweat over questions about cosines and logarithms.

We should still be made queasy and unsure about answering such questions as "What is the capital of Denmark?" or "Copenhagen or Seattle?"

And we should have a difficult time getting into the colleges and universities of our choice because everybody else will have perfect grades on their SAT and there we'll be back in the 1200's.

And since all the rocket scientists will be taken, I guess the only thing left for us to do is join the National Guard.
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