

## Environmental efforts must last past Earth Day

Earth Day has come and gone, and yet the Earth is still not saved.

I have been really impressed by the number of people that have given Earth Day attention this year. People really seem to have gotten excited about trying to protect our planet from ourselves, and that's a commendable thing to get excited about.

But the real test now is to see if we can keep up that excitement after Earth Day is over. Sure, recycling one day a year is nice, but being environmentally aware 365 days a year is the only way cool things like Earth Day will ever make a difference.

It doesn't take that much time or effort to be environmentally aware. If we change a few habits, we can make a big difference. I scanned through some literature and books at the Earth Day Fair at Research Park on Sunday and found these examples of easy ways to protect the planet:

- We've got to start recycling everything we can, of course. We can recycle aluminum, rigid plastic, paper and glass. It's only slightly more difficult to take your garbage to a recycling bin than it is to take it to the dumpster or

**Ellen Hobbs**  
Opinion Page Editor

the curb, and it's well worth the effort.

- When they ask you "Paper or plastic?" in the supermarket, say "Neither!" We all have backpacks or reusable bags we can take with us to the supermarket, so let's use them. And you can buy special net or string bags made just for grocery shopping.

- Ride bikes or walk when you can. Or use a skateboard, go on horseback or do anything else that doesn't involve combustion engines that create pollution and use natural resources. You might also save yourself some parking tickets.

- Buy butter and margarine wrapped in paper instead of plastic tubs. Not only will you help the environment, but you'll save yourself some money, too.

- Don't flush the toilet as much. You've heard the old saying: "If it's

yellow let it mellow; if it's brown, flush it down." If the average person cut his flushing in half, he'd save 16.5 gallons of water a day.

- Don't leave the water running constantly while you brush your teeth or shave. It's just another waste of good water.

- Use white paper. It's more expensive to recycle colored papers like yellow legal pads or blue steno pads.

- Buy retreads instead of getting new tires for your car. You won't be getting a poor quality tire: Most retreads last about 90 percent as long as new tires. If every tire was retreaded once, the demand for synthetic rubber would be drop to two-thirds of what it is now and the need for tire disposal facilities would be cut in half.

- Don't wash your car at home. Take it to a carwash where it is easier to conserve water, and where the pollutants that are rinsed off your car will run down the drain instead of seeping into the groundwater.

- Styrofoam can't be recycled, so avoid using it. Get eggs in paper cartons, and get the butcher to wrap the meat, poultry and fish you buy in paper

instead of getting it wrapped in plastic on a Styrofoam tray.

- Avoid using disposable cups, plates and utensils made of plastic or Styrofoam. If you do use disposable housewares, use paper. Better yet, don't use disposable housewares at all.

- Don't use paper towels when you

both sides of the paper. Use double-sided photocopying instead of single-sided. If you're using a computer, print your data until you're sure it's ready — do all your editing on the screen. Save your copy of your work on a disk instead of on paper.

- Use mechanical pencils and refillable ink pens.

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could use cloth ones. Cloth dish towels are inexpensive and you can easily toss them into your laundry.

- Save paper. When you're assigned a paper, ask your instructor not to require a cover page. Take notes on

It didn't take me much time to take these suggestions, and it wouldn't take anyone long to implement them. Read some literature and come up with your own ideas. Get together with your friends and take your garbage to be recycled on a regular basis.

Don't feel satisfied with committing yourself to working for the environment for one day a year and then skipping out, leaving the planet a cloud of dust and carbon monoxide. Make keeping the environment healthy a habit, not just something you do on Earth Day.

Ellen Hobbs is a junior journalism major.

## Be kind to your Aggie bus driver

**Sherrian K. Edwards**  
Reader's Opinion

We've all seen them. Those sleek white and maroon machines that silently and effortlessly exit and enter the Texas A&M campus to deposit and retrieve students as they go about their daily lives.

OK! OK! OK! We're on planet Earth and this is Aggiland. As a driver of these state-of-the-art mechanical devices I spend four to seven hours a day driving in circles around Texas A&M and I continuously have to remind myself that the "kids" here are college students.

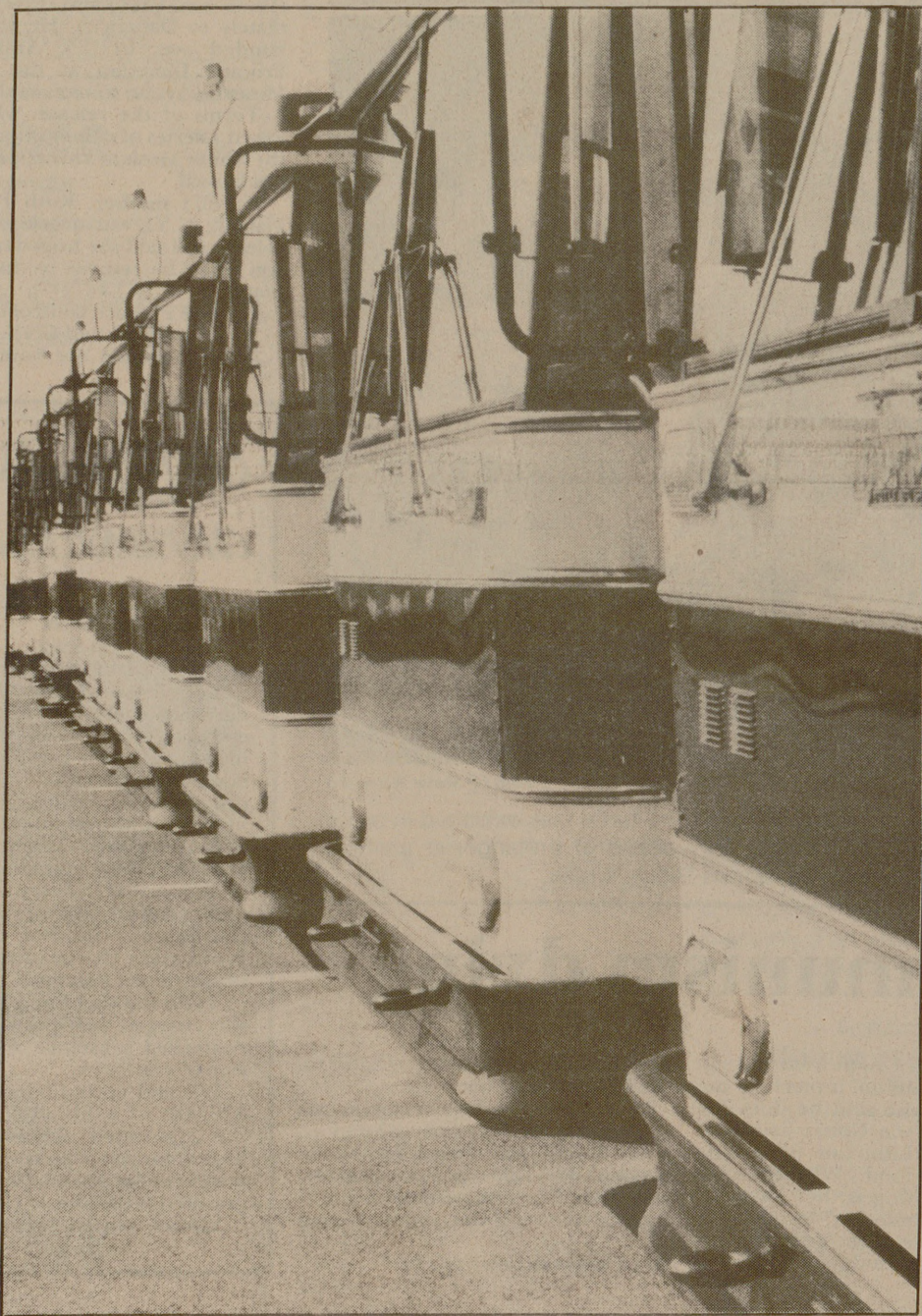
Where is it written that staring at a bus driver lets him or her know you want the bus to wait for you? No, folks, this doesn't cut it. When a massive object is in motion everyone within 50 feet stares in case they have to jump out of the way.

Simply raising one's hand and waving at the driver will give rise to the suspicion that you want to ride the bus. Waving arms, legs, backpacks and/or purses will get a bus driver's attention. You, the waver, get a free workout in the process. No more giving up the lunch hour to run. Just flag down the bus or do it for a friend.

Additionally, if you wish to depart these lovely buses at an approaching stop, simply let the driver know *before* the stop. A couple of tons of bus cannot be stopped when in full motion within a few inches of the bus stop after you've made your wishes known. A bus is not a compact car. It takes a couple of feet to stop all that weight.

Every bus driver is trained for their job. That training includes service to passengers who want to ride.

Drivers make it a point to look for people who want to ride the bus. We ride these buses home and around the campus the same as non-drivers. However, how would you deal with a person who is taking their time to board a full bus and is making no effort to let the bus be on its way? Or how about a passenger who has to finish up the last bit of gossip with a friend while standing in the door of a bus while the other



Battalion File Photo

passengers wait?

The buses have assigned schedules to follow and time allotments to complete each round, so if no one is waiting at a bus stop and no one voices their preference for that stop, there is no reason to stop the bus.

The bus system is for riders, so assist

the drivers in know your intentions if you want to enter or exit a bus. We're more than willing to stop. It's amazing the people who cannot find their voices or wave arms until after the bus has passed them up.

Sherrian K. Edwards is a graduate student in anthropology.

## Mail Call

### Album ratings useful guide for parents

EDITOR:

As a parent, I want to know what my children are listening to without having to sit through an entire album. This only makes it easier for me to monitor. All we are talking about is the placement of a sticker on the album jacket (not the shrink wrap) to inform us of the contents. We have these warnings on other harmful substances; what would be the difference here?

I fear that you have been listening to the shrill bleatings of the liberals and their reliance on those old cliches again, rather than thinking for yourselves. If your heroes are Mr. Jello and Frank Z., that's fine. But to hear you talk about "First Amendment rights" and "mind muzzling" is laughable. They care only that their product brings in the bucks, no matter what the cost.

Gary Gaither  
Agricultural education

### Summer employment seminar a 'sham'

EDITOR:

This letter is addressed to both the Placement Center and the Co-op office. At issue is the "Summer Employment Opportunities for Liberal Arts Majors" meeting they had April 11. Their so-called "meeting" was the biggest sham I've ever witnessed. For starters, the one representative that showed up was 15 minutes late and was clueless as to what was going on.

Not one summer employment opportunity was mentioned; in fact, their "representative" told us in no uncertain terms that we were too late for a summer job. If all they've got for undergraduate students is the "three alternating semesters" program, they should go ahead and say so.

Don't waste my and many other people's time trying to feed us your favorite co-op propaganda.

Greg Damron '91

### Commons parking situation confusing

EDITOR:

Recently, I asked a friend if I could borrow his VCR. To my delight, he said that I could, and since I do not have a car here at A&M, he was gracious enough to bring it over to my dorm on campus.

The problem occurred later, however, when I found out that while he parked in the drive just south of the Commons, he had received a parking ticket. It had taken him all of 15 minutes to drop off the VCR, and then leave.

I realize that there have been many letters complaining about the parking on campus and most are justified. However, unlike many, I offer a solution for at least this one drive.

If there are cars parked on both sides of the drive, then there is a justifiable problem of traffic control. My solution is simple: Have one side illegal to park on, and the other a 30 minute drop-off zone. Any way that one looks at it, it is just another prime example of this University's organized confusion.

Alan Tansy '92

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## Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

