

Q-drop deadline should be extended to help students

I don't like the Q-drop deadline. It's too early.

According to the Fall 1990 Directory of Classes, the last day for students to drop classes is Sept. 28, the end of the fifth week of the semester. By the end of the fifth week, students should have at least one grade in each of their classes, right?

Wrong.
Last spring, I took five three-hour classes. The Q-drop deadline rolled around at the end of the fifth week, and I did not have a grade in any of my classes. Many lower-level classes have four or five tests in a semester, and the deadline is a bit more realistic for them. Upper-level courses, though, often have only a midterm and a final. In a 16-week semester, the midterm is certainly not going to fall before the fifth week.

Dropping a class can be a necessity. It

Cindy McMillian
Editor

should not be looked on as just a copout. Students often find themselves in classes for which they're not prepared — classes requiring math knowledge are a great example. Not all students come from high schools offering calculus, and A&M doesn't even offer pre-calculus for students wanting a refresher course.

If such students don't have tests before the fifth week of classes, they may think that by studying hard they can catch up on their own. And they may find themselves in over their heads, staring at an F after the first test, with

no option to drop.

Other schools offer options to students. At Stanford University (which has, you know, an OK academic reputation), undergraduates may drop individual classes up until 24 hours before the final. The dropped class does not appear on the student's record, and he doesn't have to withdraw from the university. Not bad.

Rice University has several options for undergraduates. They may drop classes without record until the end of the 10th class week. If they decide they're not doing well in a class by the end of the fourth week, they can change and take it pass/fail. They also can register for a class to be taken pass/fail and decide in the 10th week to take the grade instead (students are limited to one pass/fail class each year and classes within their majors don't apply).

At A&M? If after the fifth week you find yourself in a class you can't handle, you fail. And if you retake the class, the failing grade remains a part of your grade-point ratio.

I know, I know. Help is available for students who are having trouble, and most professors are cooperative. Also, some students deserve to fail — they're having grade trouble because of their own laziness.

But in many cases, students find themselves in a bind. They may not have the proper background to pass a class, and since many classes grow progressively harder during the semester, the students may not realize their predicament until it's too late.

Others may encounter financial difficulty after classes start. Students paying for school often have to take one

or more jobs to make ends meet. Balancing work and school can easily become too much to handle, and grades can plummet for these hard workers.

Should students such as these be penalized? I don't think so. Extending the Q-drop deadline would help students and would not hurt the academic reputation of A&M. Policies at Rice and Stanford are much more lenient than ours, and their reputations are quite good.

I like Rice's 10-week drop deadline. This gives enough time for students to predict what type of grade they're going to make. If students realize they can't handle a class, let them drop it.

I think students deserve that choice. *Cindy McMillian is a senior economics major.*

Mail Call

Frats ending Aggies' unity

EDITOR:

The most vital and cherished element of Texas A&M University throughout its history has been its sense of unity within the student body. Being an Aggie meant loyalty and brotherhood to the University! Now our student body is slowly but surely transforming into one that would be found at t.u. with all of it's Alpha, Kappa, Gamma, Bamma, Sigma, Gubber, Boos!

It's bad enough that social fraternities and sororities insist on victimizing everyone else with their nonsensical greek gibberish but some curriculum oriented fraternities are following suit with their almost equally annoying bulletins, rush activities, and shoe-polished messages on cars. If somebody somewhere would show moderation I personally would not be as hostile towards all of them.

I agree with Larry Cox that fraternities could continue their quest for 'selective' yet unconditional brotherhood without university recognition. Maybe this would remind all of the 'selective' organizations that:

ALPHA GAMMA GAMMA IOTA EPSILON SIGMA's come first! (Figure it out!)

Courtney Heinrich, '91

Greeks, non-regs ... we're all Ags

EDITOR:

This is the great time of year when you are either a Greek, and boasting of your rush acceptance, or your everyone else, and bashing Greek rush week. When is everyone going to wake up and realize that all together we're Aggies and one big family?

I am an Aggie Bus Driver and drive inner campus only. On a regular work day, I transport anywhere from 200-400 passengers on a single 4-hour shift. To say the least, I have encountered many different kinds of students: old, young, honor, greeks, cowboys, and simply lost souls. I also work with some other 350 drivers, and again, all kinds of people.

I am not pretty, or special, or even popular, but I've found that all kinds of Aggies make the bus ride enjoyable, all kinds make working at Bus Operations fun, and all kinds make great friends.

All of the people that bash Greeks, or call cowboys hicks, or say that corps people are possessed, listen up:

Don't forget what it means to be an Aggie. It means tradition, pride, loyalty, and friendship to all Aggies — past and present.

Sheila Lehmann, '91

A&M is exclusionary, too

EDITOR:

Mr. Cox, thank you for your lesson on hypocrisy. I am referring of course to your article on whether or not fraternities should be recognized on campus. You stated that by giving fraternities access to campus facilities Texas A&M is 'aiding and abetting' groups which are exclusionary and elitist in nature.

First, national fraternity members are required to be students at the institution where the chapter is located. Are you saying that we should not be allowed to use what we paid for? Second, does everyone who applies to this school get in, I think not. Texas A&M University is itself exclusionary.

I hope you are still reading, Larry, because this is just a beginning. You stated that in your article that fraternities need an excuse for existence. Nothing needs an excuse for existence Larry. Not fraternities, not me, not you, not any-

one. I find this right a little more cherished than one's 'freedom to spend money freely.' If you are so confident that the Aggie brotherhood is stronger than any fraternal organization's bond then you've made the right decision. I was not sure of this when I entered school so I made a bond which I am confident will enhance my stay here in school as well as my life. I can say this because I have experienced both, you obviously have not. You also stated that your Aggie bond is free. Fraternal life is not free and neither is college life, Larry. You just paid your tuition, right.

I will end my reply with two questions for you, Larry, please read them. I would enjoy reading answers to these because I could not find any in your column.

How can you be so positive that the University would benefit from a lack of fraternity rushing on campus?

How can you state that it is unfair to lump all fraternity members together when that is what your article, and you, seem to be all about?

Peter Coman '91

Just more dead horse beating

EDITOR:

Larry Cox gives new meaning to the phrase 'beating a dead horse'. Every semester Battalion readers must endure the same thing, column after column of the opinions of your columnists who can't find anything original to say. We the readers are tired of 'Greek Bashing,' 'Corp Bashing,' and 'Bonfire Bashing!' It's old, it's useless, and it shows laziness on the part of your columnists for not coming up with something new and fun. I'm hesitant to even give Larry Cox the benefit of a reply.

To the freshmen of Texas A&M, take this to heart. You have not had to read 3 years worth of worn out opinions yet. Please don't let these negative columnists lead you astray. We are Aggies first, all of us. The Greeks know this, the Corp knows this, the Non-Regs know this ... you know this. Some Battalion columnists want you to forget. They want to divide the student body. They want you to stereotype people, DON'T. Feel free to be yourself, but always keep an open mind and respect your fellow Ags for who they are. You don't have to be everyone's friend, but don't hold contempt for Aggies of certain groups or beliefs either. Remember to think positive and feel the Aggie Spirit!

Wilhelm Liebmann, '91

No frats, football, or fun in general

EDITOR:

As an Aggie first and a fraternity member second I am in full agreement of Mr. Cox's arguments in his column on Sept 5. Fraternities are elitist and exclusionary and should be booted off this campus in order to make room for the organizations that are in no way social and whose purpose is solely for the benefit of the school.

I therefore recommend that we do away with social clubs at A&M, except for the African-American ones due to their outstanding camaraderie which according to Mr. Cox and myself is above and beyond any other group, even Aggies, and should be allowed to exist. In agreement with Mr. Cox's initial thought I also believe that Kyle Field should be moved off campus and that the intermural activities should be disbanded seeing that they provide no educational or professional fulfillment. I also believe that all campus billboards should be exclusive to educational and professional clubs, and

only if it is a listing for a meeting, not a party or anything remotely social. Finally, the Battalion should quit wasting paper on the Lifestyles section and print only relevant news such as the previous days' stock prices.

You see, Mr. Cox and I believe that a healthy social life is just as important in our college years as a good education, just as long as there is no mixture of the two. While on campus you should speak only of your classes and relevant text not of your weekend plans, and on weekends never speak of your classes. It is our opinion that the two are not related and that the university could save itself a lot of hassale, time, meeting room space, and solve the horrendous problem of billboard blanketing all in one action.

The TAMU campus is not a social playground where groups of Aggies can meet to share intrests, socialize and build unity. TAMU is a place of study, knowledge and research where Aggies should dedicate themselves to learning without communicating with other students.

Justin Whitley, '91

Don't pick on us Greeks

EDITOR:

It's the beginning of the Fall semester. I love it. Aggie Football is winning, the weather is great, I actually got the classes I wanted, the girls all look good and the Greeks are getting picked on AGAIN. Everyone seems to think that if your greek all you do is drink beer and party. In his article on Sept. 5 Larry Cox claims that the fraternities survival is 'at the expense of educational and professional clubs.' That is hard for me to believe. We Greeks are future professionals.

There are fraternities at over 650 college campuses nationwide. There are 400,000 men in fraternities in college today. Seventy-one percent of all Greeks nationwide go on to graduate, compared to fifty percent for the non-Greeks. Larry Cox also claimed that the Greeks monopolize on bulletin board space. Should an organization be ridiculed because it is able to organize and mobilize its resources? I don't think so. The main purpose of all fraternities is intellectual awareness, social responsibility, integrity and brotherly love.

A common misconception of fraternity men is that they are lazy. Seventy-one percent of the men in "Who's Who" are Greek. Seventy-six percent of the nation's senators and representatives are greek. All but two U.S. presidents since 1825 were Greek. Eighty-five percent of the U.S. Supreme Court since 1800 have been Greek men or women. The Greek presence is also seen in the business world. Eighty-five percent of the Fortune 500 executives are Greek and of the nation's 50 largest corporations 43 are headed by a Greek.

A lot of people believe that A&M doesn't want the Greeks. I'm here to tell you that is too late. Some prominent Greeks on our campus include A&M President William H. Mobley Delta Upsilon, Vice President of Student Services Dr. John J. Koldus Pi Kappa Alpha and the Director of Student Activities Dr. Carolyn Adair Sigma Kappa. Don't believe the myths about being Greek. We are good Ags and nice people.

Scott A. Finfer, '91

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

