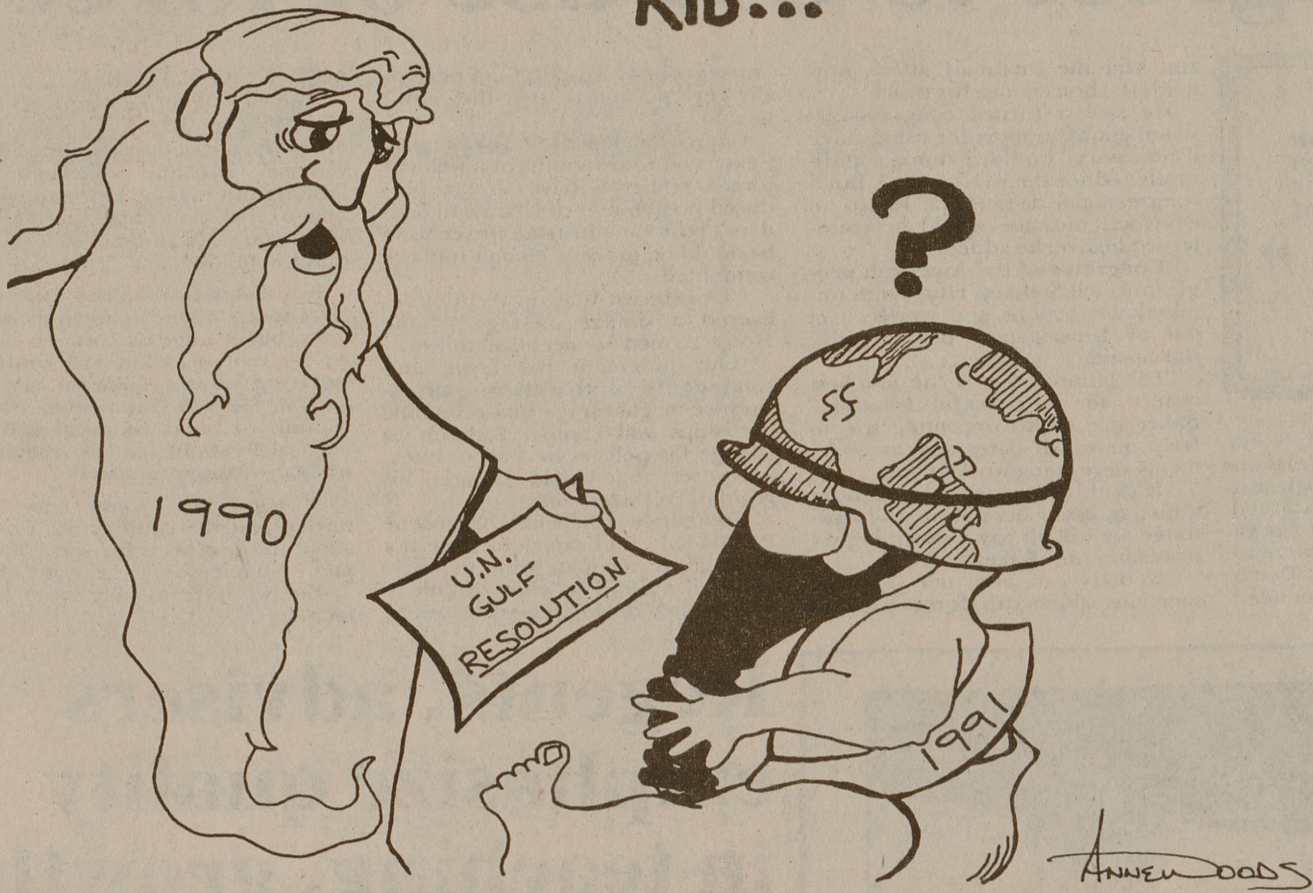


“... GOOD LUCK, KID...”



Engineering majors study hard for success while others party

Each semester, I seem to be the columnist whose piece appears on the “reading” day. In the past I realized that, of the 10 or so people who pick up a Battalion on this dead day, I will be lucky if one of them reads my column.

So I usually take advantage of that fact, and write something that does not require much effort.

This semester, however, I will take it a step further. I will write offensive things and not suffer much reprisal. Here goes.

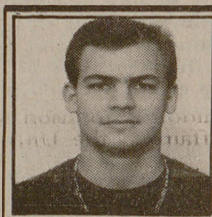
It takes more intelligence to graduate in engineering than it does in any other major.

Last year, I had three roommates. One was a civil engineering student; the other two were business majors. The c.e. constantly would joke about how business was a pansy major. Of course I, being the electrical engineering student, would razz him for being a c.e. — and so on.

The funny thing is that he and I actually believed, and continue to believe what we said. Our stuff is harder — mine is hardest.

Now don't get me wrong. There are plenty of intelligent people studying business, computer science and almost everything else.

I completely understand how some people have interests in these other fields. It is just factual that engineers have it



Matt McBurnett
Columnist

harder.

Since I began school, I always heard engineers chatter among themselves about how their business-major roommates were out drinking and did not have to do a damn thing to stay in school. This subject is usually taboo, though, in conversations between engineers and non-engineers, (or between electrical engineers and the other guys).

It is hard to explain all of this without sounding self-righteous or cocky. Rest assured that I know that I am no more intelligent than the next guy — if I am — simply because I am in engineering.

In fact, I am jealous of the people who take easier courses and have time to waste without letting their grades suffer.

My roommate, Cameron, is a business analysis major planning to graduate in May. Cameron's semester ended this past Tuesday.

Granted, he is a smart fellow, but his course load is not that stringent. I have my first optional final ever this semester. All others are comprehensive, as always. So now, not only do I

have to suffer through hellish finals; I have to prepare for them while I watch Cameron explore the fruits of Milwaukee.

Why is engineering so much more difficult?

★ Speaking from an electrical engineering standpoint, the course loads are much heavier. Very few engineers get out in less than five years.

★ The material being dealt with in engineering is simply more difficult. I do not remember the last time my homework consisted of reading instead of doing awful problems.

★ Engineers, especially electrical, often deal with teaching assistants and faculty whose grasp of English is about as good as Reveille's.

Why am I doing all of this bitching?

Well, as I mentioned, this subject is often taboo in conversation, but it is in the backs of the minds of any of us who slave away at far-out science concepts. Plus, I hear we will be rewarded for our efforts later.

I can hear the clamor now. People will tell me to get out of engineering if it is so bad.

Many engineers prefer not to do that. Personally, I like the stuff.

I am just stating the facts.

Matt McBurnett is a senior electrical engineering major.

Mail Call

A&M spirit rules

EDITOR:

I am writing to commend and congratulate the student body for an outstanding victory this weekend. Though not a victory on the field, this weekend was a victory in spirit for Texas A&M.

After seeing and hearing about the apparent lack of pride and respect the students at UT have for their university, my feelings of spirit for and devotion to A&M have increased enormously.

I was mortified by the things I heard that went on in Austin. It seems to me that so many of the students at UT are motivated more by arrogance and hatred than they are by love for their school.

Happily, I can say that the 12th Man rises above this. Though not without our imperfections, I believe that we Aggies possess a true spirit that can be rivaled by few. I will never be anything but proud to be an Aggie.

Stacy Miles '91

Push for SWC unity

EDITOR:

Howdy Ags! I am a first year transfer student and a very intense football fan. I have a question for my fellow football fans — Why does almost everyone here in Aggieland want t.u. to lose every game they play?

Yes, I know the t-sips are our biggest rival, and I feel sick that they beat us last weekend. My opinion of the annual clash between this state's two premier universities is obviously very different than most.

It seems that everyone besides me would like for t.u. to be winless and the Aggies undefeated when they meet.

I feel the ideal match-up with t.u. would involve both teams entering the game undefeated and ranked very high nationally. Not only would this be a game to determine the Southwest Conference's Cotton Bowl representative, but there would also be a national-championship atmosphere added to an already intense rivalry.

Throw in 70,000 screaming fans at Kyle Field, and you have the makings of a great football game!

Just think of how sweet it would be to hand the t-sips their only loss ever year, and how much prestige the SWC would receive with two great teams consistently in the top 10.

Furthermore, I am worried that the SWC is losing its credibility as a competitive athletic conference.

I always will support a SWC team when it plays a non-conference game because every non-conference game an SWC team wins establishes it as a stronger conference.

This would make the Cotton Bowl a much more lucrative bowl game than it has been for quite a few years.

It is said that the Miami Hurricanes, one of the best teams in college football in the 1980s, had to “settle” for a Cotton Bowl bid.

I think it would be great to have teams like Miami, Notre Dame and Michigan want to play in Dallas on New Year's Day every year.

But that will never happen as long as the SWC representative enters the game with more than one loss.

So why not support the SWC in all non-conference games, especially the Cotton Bowl?

After all, the Fightin' Texas Aggies and the 12th Man are going to be there next year!

Brad Jones '92

Get rid of those car alarms

EDITOR:

Living on campus poses a variety of problems for some people. Little privacy, limited visitation hours and too many quiet hours are among these problems.

Our problem though is different — CAR ALARMS.

We live on the third floor of Davis-Gary, facing the parking lot, and just as we were getting used to the late-night trains, car alarms started going off.

My roommate and I both realize that not everyone can be trusted, and person has the right to protect his or her property.

But how many times do people run out and check on their vehicles when the alarm goes off? Never. More than likely they don't even hear the alarm. So what good is a \$250 security system if you don't respond to it.

Save yourself some money and us some headaches — get a “club.” Professor Harvey recommends it, and that's what I use.

Tammy Burt and Jennifer Collins '92

Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

The Battalion

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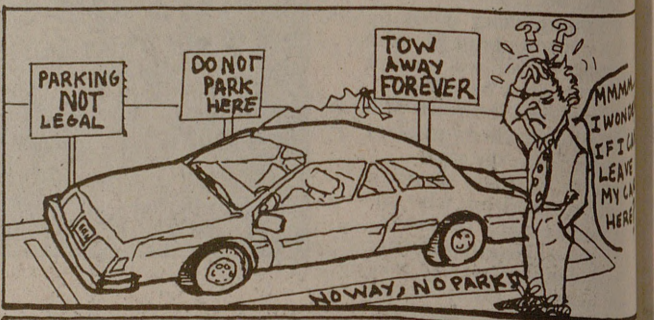
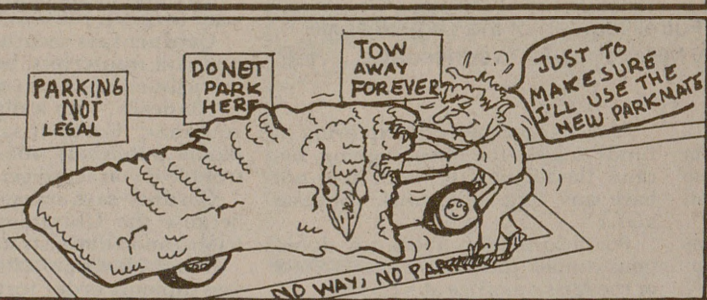
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THE HOSTILITY AND MYSTERIOUS LACK OF PARKING AREA WHICH THE 21ST CENTURY MAN WOULD HAVE TO FACE, MADE PROFESSOR SCHUMVAULER CHAIN, WINNER OF TWO NOBEL PRIZES, COME UP WITH A BRILLIANT ALTERNATIVE: THE PARKMATE.



by Nit