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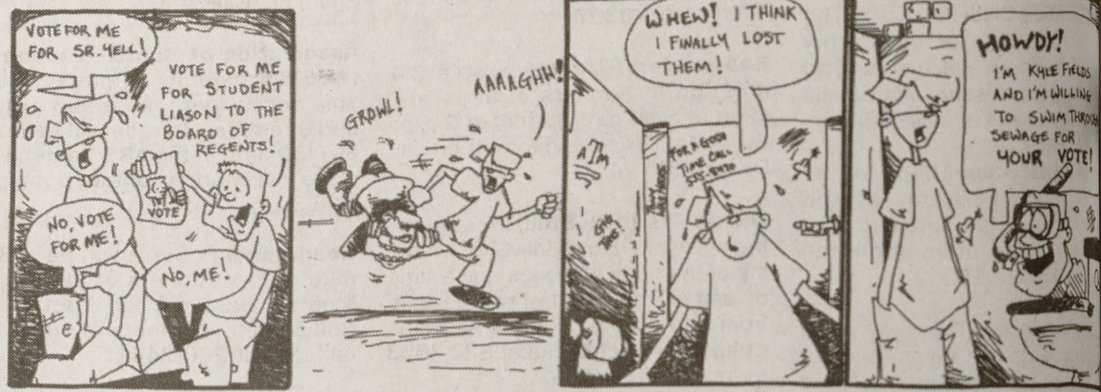
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Wednesday • March 19, 1998

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By JED



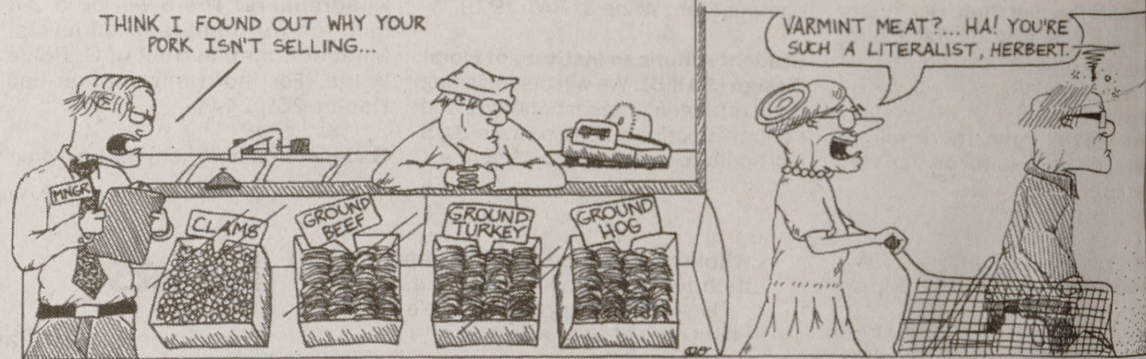
Peeps

By Michael



Sketch

By Quatr



UT criticized over lack of night classes

AUSTIN (AP) — Every Tuesday night, Steve Tipton leaves his day job and drives to an Apple Computer facility for a three-hour class.

Tipton, a National Guard recruiter who aspires to be a colonel, is happy to have found an evening MBA program — offered by St. Edward's University. But he steams about the way the University of Texas responded when he asked about evening master's of business administration programs.

"I called and they said, 'Night school? You must be kidding,'" Tipton, 45, recalled in an interview with the Austin American-Statesman published Tuesday.

"There's just an arrogance there at being 'the' university. I guess we're not their market," he said.

Some local businesses and residents complain UT does little for adults who would like to continue their education after working hours.

St. Edwards, a private college, was accommodating and understanding of his schedule, Tipton said.

UT is not the only major university that doesn't have traditional night school. Officials said they are working harder to provide al-

ternatives for working adults.

UT offers a two-year, \$26,000 executive MBA program known as Option II on two Fridays and Saturdays a month. The class also meets in four week-long sessions spread out during the two years.

Tipton and several of his classmates said they can not take off work on Fridays, so the UT program is not an option.

Others in the city's business community say there are widespread needs the state's biggest public university is best equipped to serve. Demands have accelerated as Austin has become a high-tech center, drawing more and more well-educated adults.

In response, UT has added Friday-Saturday master's degree programs in software engineering and in commercializing science and technology. It also offers a number of evening courses, some at the graduate level. Many cater to managers and high-tech workers, including courses that earn students certificates rather than degrees.

But many Austin high-tech workers make a 45-minute drive to Southwest Texas State University in San

Marcos to pursue a master's in computer science or an MBA.

"Our average MBA student is someone in the high-tech industry in Austin who wants to get into management," SWT President Jerome Supple said.

Chip Wolfe, chief executive of the Sterling Information Group software consulting firm, said the demand is greater than what is available.

"I'm a business owner who has employees who want to pursue advanced degrees at a modest tuition rate, and that is not available at the University of Texas," Wolfe said.

He cited a high-tech industry survey last year by the Austin Software Council that concluded "UT's general isolation and failure to reach out to the business community" was a drawback to locating in Austin.

UT officials said the demand for advanced degrees has been overstated, and when the need real the university will step up to the challenge. "When we've offered some night programs in engineering, very few people have shown up," said UT President Robert Berdahl.

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