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MAIL CALL

Hopwood becomes campus scapegoat

In the Hopwood story on Monday, we read the usual moaning over how horrible Hopwood is, and how it is just going to take all of the minority students away from A&M or at least that is the impression the stories have left me with.

But there are two things that need to be pointed out.

The first is about the A&M employees, who are quoted as saying that Hopwood is to blame for the fall off in minority enrollment at this school

They might be right, but how do they know?

Unless they actually asked every person who turned down the offered admission (and those who didn't apply, for that matter) why they did not come here, they are only speculating as to why those students did not choose to come here.

They have already decided that Hopwood will take all of our minority students away, so that is the only possible explanation to them.

The second is in regard to an AP story that was run in the Battalion

over the summer. According to the story, incoming students of all races have fallen off from last year. That includes the white students.

It could be that minority students are leaving the state in droves, but if the Battalion wants me to care, it needs to print information in a usable form such as ratio of minority students to white

students in recent years. To date, I have not seen enough information to be concerned.

John Brooks

Students control academic lifestyles

In response to Mandy Cater's September 2, "impersonal campus' column:

I have always been of the opinion that our world is what we make of it. Sure, you can always find someone or something to blame your troubles on, but it most likely will not resolve the problem.

In her September 2 column, Cater states that "many students don't even know their advisor's

Whose fault is that? As she clearly stated, the advisor is responsible for the whole undergraduate population of their department/college.

As young adults, it is high time college students took responsibility for their own futures. It may be difficult to get an appointment, but I dare say that any student makes a concerted effort to schedule an appointment with an advisor can do so with a little effort.

As for the student-to-faculty ratio, it is probably better now than when I was a student more than a few years ago.

The Class of '91 was over 8,000 students, the largest freshman class in the nation that year (Fall '87). The class of '01 is slightly more than 6,000. I would say the administration is doing their best to bring the faculty/student ratio back down to a manageable size.

College is an adjustment, yes. But each student has the power (and responsibility) to maintain personal control of their academic future.

There are plenty of faculty and staff who are on this campus for the express purpose of advising students - the problem is that the students are waiting for them to call them up and invite them to a personal meeting — that won't happen. If you want help, go and ask for it

be a big girl.

And speaking of impersonal, when was the last time anyone but the cadets said Howdy on this campus? Don't they teach that at Fish Camp any more??? I must be get-

Karen Seago Class of '91

Education should be Aggie priority

This is in regards to the September 1st Mail Call letter from the Panhellenic President (Jennifer Burns and Vice President (Robin Morgan).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these ladies for clearing something up for me. In their letter they stated "We have all come to Texas A&M for one reason: to be an Aggie.

For the past two years I have been under the naive impression that we all came here to get an education. Thanks ladies for correcting my ill-conceived notion.

Adolfo Lopez Class of '99

Fall's return marked by traffic violations

It is only the second day of the new fall semester at Texas A&M University, and already I find myself looking both ways in the same lane when I cross a street.

The manner in which students disobey traffic laws in College Station is alarming. Not only is it dangerous, but rude and inconsiderate.

I am a careful person, and I (a pedestrian) have nearly been hit five times in one day. In every instance, it involved an Aggie and in every instance that Aggie was doing something illegal.

Perhaps instead of "Aggies Lead by Example" (If driving is any indication, I sure hope not) the department responsible for printing these tags should have included helpful reminders to drivers on the backs of parking tags. Things that most of us would take for common sense ... With this idea in mind, I brought my suggestion to other people.

I found that almost everyone in this town has a gripe or two (and more jokes than I can remember) about Aggie driving. I have ranked them in order of popularity.

Turn on your thinker; use your blinker. Warn before you turn. This is a major cause of accidents in College Station. If people do not

know you are intending to turn, they will not know to slow down behind you or (in some cases) to

yield or get out of your way. When driving in this town at night, turn ON your smarts and turn off your brights. Make sure your headlights are tilted down. toward the road ... and not into th

eyes of oncoming traffic. When you use hi-beams in a populated area, certain people who only have a mild visual impairment in the daytime are as good as legally blind because of the glare you are shining onto their glasses. It does not take very long for a person in that situation to swerve into your lane. It's your

There is no reason ever to use hi-beams or other powerful lights in a city. Besides unsafe, it is annoying and inconsiderate, so switch them off.

Don't tailgate. When the light changes to red, stop. Don't think because the guy ahead of you managed to sneak through that you can too.

Know where it is legal to turn and where it is not legal.

Likewise, know the direction of sling \$22 mi traffic on a one-way road. Just be- red car comp cause there is not a sign, does not less for at leas mean it is legal. Please consider the above all-

time gripes of College Station residents and workers. Only you can help end the

jokes about Aggie driving.

A. Scratcher-Bryce

College Station resident

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and in clude the author's name, class, and phone The opinion editor reserves the right to edit | 0man

letters for length, style, and accuracy, Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed Mo Donald with a valid student ID. Letters may also The Battalion - Mail Call

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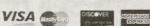




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