

Laws in B-CS do not always seem to follow logic



BRANDI BALLARD
staff writer

Rules, rules, rules. Who needs them? They were made to be broken, anyhow, were they not? Rules have been around since we were children. Parents often lay down rules to keep their precious babies out of trouble. More than once, a child questions authority and asks the question, "But, why?" My mother always gave me the response, "Because, I said. That's why." Sometimes I left it at that — most times I didn't.

Now, years later, as a legal adult, I am faced with outrageous laws placed on me by cities and states. But who do I direct my questions to? And why were these laws even made?

For instance, in College Station, it is against the law to park an automobile in your front yard — your very own front yard. You pay for it, it is your grass and you can't park on it. They will write you a citation for this faster than the TTS will give you a parking ticket. A city official said this is a law that gets a lot of complaints.

Is it any wonder? If there is no room in the driveway or the street, where else is the car supposed to go? The reasoning is in case there is a problem with cars that leak water or oil, leaving a puddle in the grass, which eventually leads to a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Which leads to another ordinance, written in 1939, forbidding any collection of standing or flowing water in which mosquitoes are likely to breed.

Mosquitoes do not just go away. They are like flies. They will always be around. A car in someone's yard is not going to make a whole lot of

significance to the mosquito problem in College Station.

Another law disbars loud, obscene noises. A policeman from Jacksonville claims this one even goes for farting in public. If cops actually write tickets for farting, every girl I know would be visiting her boyfriend in jail for unpaid farting tickets. Heck, my boyfriend would be on death row by now.

Then there is the ordinance written in 1940 forbidding any livestock or poultry to run at large within College Station. Cows running loose in the city? Imagine

of someone who was ordered by the city to have their dog's "barkers" removed. Where are the animal activist people? Can something be done about this? This could be considered animal cruelty. My question is what do the police do about noisy people? Do people who talk to much get their "barkers" removed?

Or what about people who live around you and make a lot of noise? A barking dog living upstairs would much more tolerable than the people who live above me. At least a dog sleeps.

Also, the city cemetery does not allow plastic flowers to be placed on any headstones. Only the real thing for those in their final resting place. Who brings plastic flowers to a graveyard in the first place? When it is my time to go, I want fresh flowers. Lots of them. They may eventually die, but that is a part of life, is it not? Who is given the ticket for this law? If no one sees who brought the flowers, are the dead fined?

Then of course, there are the safety laws. The laws that protect us from the harm of other people. For instance, no one is to shoot a firearm within the city limits of College Station. That goes for pistols, shotguns, rifles and air rifles. Isn't this law common sense? I guess it was made for those who do not have any sense at all.

So, on the other hand, maybe all laws are not useless. Personally, I am thankful that no one can shoot a gun and claim the bullet accidentally hit me. It is also nice to know that the city cemetery is a beautiful place to go and see fresh flowers. I am sure that when the city officials mow, they would much rather throw the flowers away instead of picking the fake flowers up and putting them back. And I know that keeping your dog on leash while in heat helps control the pet population. I realize that barking dogs can be annoying, but so are a lot of people. The obscene noise law has still got me confused, unless it is something totally intolerable and unbearable. As for the parking in your yard ordinance, I suppose that will continue to be a problem in this town. I am willing to bet the the fines from this one are a large source of income for College Station.

Maybe if people had a little more respect for others and common sense, we would not have to ask, "But, why?" to these crazy laws.

Brandi Ballard is a sophomore education major

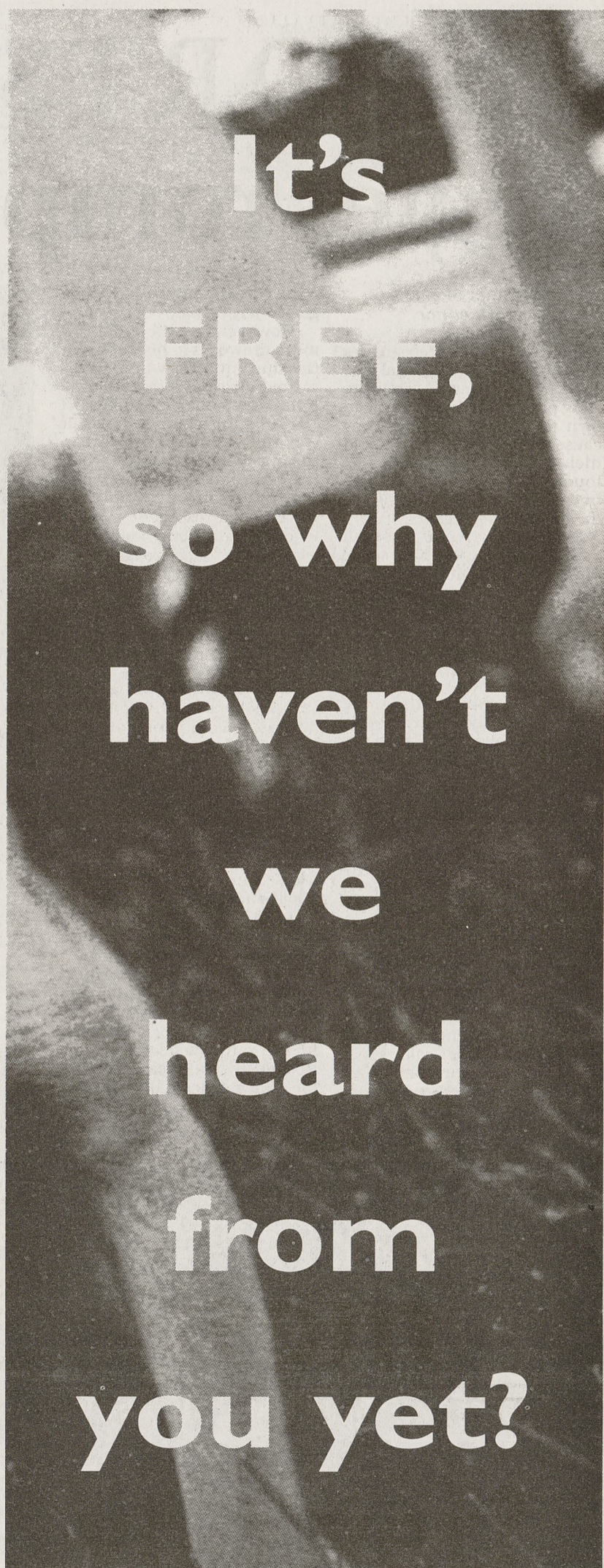


how the guy who called for this law to be enacted feels. Old Aags walking their cows down Texas Avenue with a leash? It would have been great to see this one, don't you think?

Attention all pet lovers: Beware. Owners of loud-barking dogs are fined. As if the owner can help it if their dog barks. I have even heard

Maybe I could file against my neighbors for the loud, obscene noise ordinance. They are definitely loud, and I would bet money they are obscene.

Incidentally, it is also a violation for a dog to run freely while in heat. Poor dogs. They can barely walk outside without getting their owners in trouble.



It's
FREE,
so why
haven't
we
heard
from
you yet?

509 University Drive West • College Station • Phone: 846-8721

kinko's®

3¢

Black & White Copies

Ask about free pickup and delivery

Offer good on letter size, singlesided, autofed copies on 20# white paper. Not good in combination with other offers or discounts. One use per customer. Expires 12/31/97.

MSC Barber Shop

Serving All Aggies!

Cuts and Styles
All Corp Cuts \$7.
Regular cuts start at \$8.

846-0629

Open: Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5

Located in the basement of the Memorial Student Center

Make Tracks Winter Break!

16th Annual **COLLEGE STATE** Classic

GOTTA SKI!

BREAKS

JANUARY 4-18, 1998 • 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 NIGHTS

STEAMBOAT BRECKENRIDGE \$104

VAIL/BEAVER CREEK

TELLURIDE

SUNCHASE AFFORDABLE

Book a Group of 15 and Ski Free!

TOLL FREE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS
1-800-SUNCHASE
ski the web at www.sunchase.com
Nobody Does Ski Breaks Better!

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU MIX SEMICONDUCTORS AND AUSTIN?

Over-achieving mountain bikers in bunny suits.

Bunny Hop Your Way to the Top.

At Samsung Austin Semiconductor, there are no obstacles to advancement. Performance based compensation lets the best people cut their own trail to success.

Big Air in Austin. High-Tech in the Hill Country. Clean air. Clear water. Austin has awesome outdoor vistas, world-class education, hot clubs and culture, and a low-stress, laid-back lifestyle. Stick your diploma in your backpack and spin our way.

We are looking for 1998 graduates with either a BS or a MS in the following areas:

- Chemical/Process Engineering
- General EE
- Chemistry
- Material Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Physics

GPA requirements: BS 3.0, MS 3.25

Co-op or internship experience in the semiconductor industry preferred. Must be currently authorized to work in the United States on a permanent basis.

Send resume and cover letter to: Human Resources/College Relations, 12100 Samsung Blvd., Austin, Texas 78754 Fax: (512) 672-1025. www.sas.samsung.com

For details, please attend our Information Meeting on October 22nd from 6:30pm - 8:15pm at 404 Rudder.

SAMSUNG

AUSTIN SEMICONDUCTOR

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/H/V

Call **1-800-878-3872**
www.att.com/college/np.html

AT&T

It's all within your reach.