

# We don't need no education

## When seeking employment, students must step outside the classroom

Students go to college to earn an education.

At Texas A&M, students are offered, for the most part, top-of-the-line professors and courses. No one ever complains about having learned something, whether it's where to park without getting towed or how to calculate a geometric formula.

Most students are required to prove their skills in "well-rounded" subjects such as reading, writing and foreign languages.

But what really is useful on judgment day — the day students interview for their first real job — is what students are not learning in the classroom.

In other words, "It's not the grades you make; it's the hands you shake."

Knowing the right person, having work experience and even having an Aggie ring are the most necessary components for landing a job.

When applying for a job at a chemical engineering firm, no prospective employer is going to ask what grade a student made in bowling. It really doesn't matter if a student fails bowling six times —

just like it doesn't matter when a student applies at A&M that he or she had in school suspension four times in high school.

First of all, knowing the right person is important for getting a job. If a student has an uncle in the business, he or she in. They may not be staying for long, but they'll get the job. Friends recommend friends, and before long, a corporation becomes a network of Greek sisters and brothers.

Maybe some students learned the skills of meeting people while in college, but they didn't learn it in Math 142.

Students will be leaving A&M with a wealth of knowledge they will never use. English majors most likely won't be using what they learned in Geology 101 in order to teach a Shakespearean literature course.

In addition, work experience probably is the most important component one needs when applying for a job. Consider the following scenario.

Joe Aggie applies for a full-time summer job at a consulting firm. He is a sophomore in college, with no degree, and is a kinesiology major. But his father is a consultant, and he worked for his father every summer since he turned 12. Needless to say, Joe Aggie knows the tricks of the trade.

Joe Businessworld applies for the same job. He recently graduated from a prestigious universi-

ty with a degree in marketing. He has been working at a liquor store to earn some extra cash until he gets on his feet. He never worked in college or high school.

Joe Aggie gets the job every time. He knows what he's doing, and he didn't learn it in a classroom.

Finally, for an average price of \$200, that lovely Aggie ring on a student's right hand may make all the difference in whether they are hired. Aggies are known for their integrity and honor. They are supposedly trustworthy and hard-working, and brownie points go to those who were members of the Corps of Cadets.

But how honorable is it to accept a job one did not earn? How honorable is it to sign on the dotted line knowing one was handed a job because of the university they attended, not because of the skills they have learned or the work they have put in?

The tactics employers use when they go about hiring are unethical and unfair. But if an employee is unable to do the job, it will backfire anyway.

A person's maturity level and ability to handle a job well and perform the duties requested of him or her is going to be the test of whether they keep the job. But getting one's foot in the door is a different story.

April Towery is a senior journalism major.



APRIL TOWERY  
opinion editor



# University anti-hazing policy proves pointless

Despite claims to the contrary, Texas A&M is not where the fine art of hazing first began. However, Aggies can certainly boast of alumni who were leading innovators in the field.

In 1987, Texas passed legislation making any act of hazing a state crime. In addition to following the specifics of the state law, A&M added a few provisions of its own. Both the state law and the additional regulations of A&M are comprehensive and well intentioned. Yet, both are completely pointless.

According to the University, hazing is an "intentional, knowing, reckless act... directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or

welfare of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated to, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization."

Because it was defined to cover practically any type of activity, the official definition of hazing is purposely broad and all encompassing. However, precisely because the definition is so encompassing, almost anything can be considered an act of hazing.

A&M additionally defines the term hazing as "any activity... that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation... or adversely affects the dignity of the student." Going solely by that definition, everyone associated with organizing Fish Camp could be charged with breaking the law.

After being forced to dance bastardized renditions of the Funky Chicken and enough "booty shakin'" to make even a "Singed Out" host envious, what A&M student goes to Fish Camp with even the pretense of dignity?

In fact, under its own term, A&M violates its own anti-hazing policy. A&M terms hazing to also include "any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinements in a small place, or calisthenics that adversely affects the mental or physical

health of the student."

Yet, there is a Fitness & Conditioning course at 8 a.m. and a Beginning Tennis section at noon. Forcing students to run laps that early in the morning and making students practice their serve and volley on scorching hot concrete at the peak of mid-day heat are much more sadistic than anything a mere student organization could come up with.

Another reason the state law and A&M's policy on hazing are so irrelevant is because of the penalties involved. The penalty for failing to report hazing is a fine up to \$1,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail.

If this penalty were to actually be enforced, the Brazos County Jail would have to be added as a stop on the shuttle bus route. The act of hazing itself can result in fines of up to \$5,000 and a year in jail, but one lawyer confided that in most hazing cases, except those resulting in a fatality, the most common punishment is community service.

In essence, the penalties are neither enforced nor severe. If the state of Texas considers hazing a criminal act, why not use already existing laws that actually make someone think twice about giving that extra kick to the ribs?

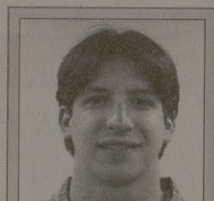
The charge of assault and battery — with the prospect of stamping out license plates in Huntsville for a few years — is certainly more of a deterrent than the threat of picking up trash on the side of a highway for a few hours.

Hazing, and being hazed, is a choice. If someone is willing to undergo some form of hazing to join an organization, what they want and what they deserve is pretty much the same thing. Most people would agree that participating in acts of physical and/or mental abuse is not the quickest path to sainthood. No matter what any individual thinks, both the State of Texas and A&M view hazing as a crime. However, their current laws and regulations against hazing, though well-intentioned, are absolutely irrelevant.

Steven Gyeszly is a junior finance major.



STEVEN GYESZLY  
columnist



RICHARD PADDACK  
columnist

# Pedestrians and drivers should respect each other

Many students have jobs and classes or other responsibilities that require them to venture out into this fast-paced society on a regular basis.

There are many modes of transportation that people choose to get them where they need to go. Some students walk, some ride their bikes and some ride motorcycles.

A majority of Texas A&M students choose to drive to class. Driving and parking on campus can be rather expensive and time consuming, especially at A&M.

When A&M was first established, it was not envisioned that cars would be a fixed part of the campus scenery, nor did anyone expect the number of students enrolled to jump to more than 41,000.

With this many students, and most of whom own cars, it tends to get a little too close for comfort at times.

With the constant construction on campus, it makes it even harder for pedestrians and automobiles to coexist.

A lot of people may wonder why one of the best engineering schools in the country has not yet formulated a solution to this ever increasing problem.

Maybe the University has no intention of finding a solution. It seems as though the University is just waiting until all of the bicyclists and pedestrians are too scared to walk or ride on campus and are forced to buy their over-

sold parking permits.

It is obvious there is no solution in the near future so all students can do is try and get along.

In order to do this, students who intend to drive through campus on a regular basis should have to take a campus driving class that would count as a kinesiology or a humanity.

The class would include an obstacle course of things to avoid hitting such as bicyclists, pedestrians, maybe an unsuspecting old lady and other animate objects who could die or be maimed

their rights and deliberately walk fearlessly into oncoming traffic just to make drivers mad. Well, that maybe so, but a right is a right.

A pedestrian is considerably smaller than a dually, and they tend to move a little slower. So be patient — a driver will probably get to his or her destination before the guy he or she almost ran over anyway, unless he or she does not have a reserved staff parking spot.

Another species drivers need to be more aware of is the bicyclist. Near extinction, the bicyclist probably is the bravest creature to cruise the streets of A&M campus.

The bicyclist tends to move considerably faster than its cousin the pedestrian, and in doing so, is more susceptible to bodily harm. There seems to be a large misconception among the drivers on campus that bicyclists have no rights.

This is false, as well. True, there are bike lanes, but most of them are riddled with pot holes and most drivers tend to ignore them anyway.

There also is a war between pedestrians and bicyclists. There is nothing better than hauling through campus at a healthy pace and meeting head on with a few disgruntled pedestrians who have decided to not share the sidewalk.

This is a large campus, and A&M does not feel like paying for a solution anytime soon.

So strap on those helmets, try to walk single file every now and then and cancel that order for the new grill guard.

Richard Paddock is a junior journalism major.

Another species drivers need to be aware of is the bicyclist. Near extinction, the bicyclist probably is the bravest creature to cruise the streets of the A&M campus.

as a result of a collision.

The class also would focus on some of the basic road rules that a majority of the students at A&M have forgotten or never learned at the All-U-Can Eat Buffet & Driving School.

There are several rules that need to be reinforced or retaught, such as what to do when someone walks out in front of a car. A lot of students seem to think they are supposed to accelerate — wrong. A majority of students feel pedestrians on campus abuse