

The Battalion

Horseshoes Rabbit's feet and a #2 pencil

Students try anything to gain an academic advantage

BY MELISSA PANTANO
The Battalion

Brad Mason, a senior recreation parks and tourism major, stumbles sleepily across campus to the room where he will face his first final. Last night, he fell asleep on a pile of books, and learning by osmosis failed him, but his lack of preparation does not faze him. Reaching into his backpack, he produces a secret weapon — his lucky pencil.

Mason said the lucky charm has a long history. "I have a Texas A&M pencil that I used for every test I took my sophomore year," he said. "I used it a couple of times and kept passing tests, so I figured that it must be the pencil."

Mason said he has held on to the pencil to provide an advantage with difficult classes. "I still have it somewhere," he said. "It's only like a couple of inches long now, and it has one of those replacement erasers, but I have to hold onto it in case I take a really hard class and need a little luck."

From lucky socks to aimlessly throwing change at the feet of Sul Ross, students find themselves grasping onto security blankets in times of chaos.

While some rely on test-taking instruments, others think pieces of clothing are the way to success.

Robbie Moeller, a freshman business major, said he has a reliable piece of intimate apparel that has gotten him through the years.

"I have the Test Master 2000 boxer shorts," he said. "I've had them since high school, and I just wear them, and good things happen."

Moeller said his superstitions probably are more psychological than anything else.

"They help me with other stuff besides school," he said. "I don't know if I'm just lucky, or I just think I'm going to do well because I'm wearing the boxers. I just think the boxers are a modest way of giving me an excuse for being a genius."

Another way students prepare themselves for the dreaded finals slump is keeping a routine to set themselves up for success.

Matt Kemper, a freshman business administration major, said organization is the key to success.

"I always lay my clothes out the night before a test — everything down to socks, and I always lay them out in the order that I will put them on the next morning," Kemper said.

Kemper said he has a specific number and a sequence of doing things that helps him succeed.

"I do everything in threes," Kemper said. "For athletic events, I'll run around the track three times or brush my teeth three times for luck [before a test]. Three is supposed to be a lucky number, so I stick with that. Not that I study three times, but just about everything else."

Other students' ways to get through tests do not have anything to do with the actual testing act.

Jeff Carawan, a senior journalism major, said the best way to decrease the stress of a test is to avoid binging on information right before the test is passed out.

"I never listen to the chatter in the class before I take a final," he said, "and I never try to cram in the classroom before the test."

Carawan said listening to other students prior to a test can make people lose faith in themselves.

"Listening to people talking just reminds you of everything you don't know," Carawan said. "I figure that if you don't know the information by the time you walk in the test, you are pretty much screwed anyway."

"Why sit and psyche yourself out before the test? You know whether you are prepared or not, last-minute cramming won't help any."

Other students rely on science to get them through tests and studying.

Kurtiss Schmidt, a senior rangeland ecology and management major, said the best way to ace a test is to listen to researchers.

"I've heard that the best way to take a test is to be in the same state of mind when you study that you will be in during the test," he said. "Somebody told me that research has shown that if you study half-lit, that should be the way you take the test, because the information will flow out better that way."



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Desperate students can always turn to Sul Ross for a little extra help in their time of need.

Aggies,



Don't let your name be called.

If you are feeling **drowsy** on the road
remember to **Stop**
at these participating locations **for reduced**
hotel rates:

- Hampton Inn**
320 South Texas Ave: **College Station**
5209 Blanche Moore Drive: **Corpus Christi**
7619 IH-35 North: **Austin**
112 South Access Road: **Longview**
7903 San Dario: **Laredo**

- Super 8 Motels**
818 Highway 6 Loop S: **Navasota**
5505 S. General Bruce Dr. : **Temple**
510 E. Hwy 46: **New Braunfels**
2909 I-40 East: **Amarillo**
301 Texas Ave: **College Station**
1320 S. Jack KultgenWay: **Waco**

- 1800 Airport Freeway: **Bedford**
620 South I-35 East: **Denton**
250 East Hwy 114: **Grapevine**
4245 W. Airport Freeway: **Irving**
910 N Central Expressway: **McKinney**
1704 N CentralExpressway: **Plano**

Drive Alert, Arrive Alive!

A message from the office of Vice President for Student Affairs, TAMC, MSC and the Student Government

Students lost the week before.
[The Bonfire could have brought this team back in perspective,] A&M punter Lechler said.
"Which is that this place is the most special school in the country because of the tremendous support of the fans and how the family Aggies are."
A garage will be built using... used primarily for student... reason for increasing parking... build up enough revenue to... he said.
able to park and get to the... effort, because a shuttle is... st. Campus Parking Garage... once the project is complete... ible parking will be available... garage.
"rainbow" aerial pedestrian... es Wellborn Road, will be... current [Americans with Disa... because the slopes are too... said.
estimated to be completed...
Ferguson said drowsy... effects every college student... the ages of 18 to 24, direct... indirectly.
"Every person in college... affected by these deaths that... ot happen," he said. "Stu... need to encourage their frien... at A&M] and at other schoo... take responsibility for their o... According to the National... foundation, 73 percent of... students will fall asleep one... and the wheel.
Ferguson said drivers are... ble for making the decision... ver if they are too tired to... "I know it isn't worth... ves, so pull over and get... ad instead of putting yourse... thers in danger," he said.
k to victim...
major, came up with the ide... onfire design.
"I wanted to make this... memorable," he said. "The... e in the ground forever, so... re was appropriate for the... The rest of the pole featu... ols of Aggieworld and the... The 12th Man, the "big em... and a football with the sco... ear's A&M-University of Tex... game are represented.
Crow asked friend and room... eslie VanDusen, a junior... ry education major, to j... mly this year.
VanDusen said she was... essed with the work and cou... lieve the passion the... owed toward the project.
"The craftsmanship is am... e said. "You would never... ople you who are your... ve totem poles, let alone... well."
Children's
A Workshop
Part of the
Sundays in
the Galleries
Program
Sunday
at 2PM
J. Wayne Stark
Galleries
GABRIEL RUENES/The B...
the workshop by calling 845...
more information about...
rk Galleries, call (409) 845...
visit their Website...
p://stark.tamu.edu/.

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