

News in Brief
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Snooze button revolution

Students must take destiny in their hands and take classes on their own terms



JASON BENNYHOFF

Somewhere on the Texas A&M campus, a classroom sits empty. Somewhere in Bryan, in the heart of the ghetto, a student lies sleeping. His head is filled with dreams of sugary aprils and scantily clad women. Piles of trash and half-eaten pizza lie on the floor around him; roaches wander in and out. Everything is as it should be. However, there is a seed of discontent in this harmonious scene — the student is skipping class, and the few grains of guilt that will eventually grow into a mountain are already in his mind.

This scenario is repeated for nearly every student on the A&M campus at least once a week. So, the questions are: Why would anyone skip class, and if they did, why would they feel guilty?

The answer to the first question is obvious. A&M's staff and faculty suffer from a collective delusion of grandeur, for which the student body continually suffers. Anyone who has ever had to drop a class or get reinstated into one has felt the sanctimonious wrath of the self-proclaimed demigods who rule this veritable Mount Olympus, or Hades, depending on one's point of view.

Any minor mistake in the mountainous trash heap of procedure that keeps the

wheels of this great sewer system turning is severely chastised. Who at this campus has not had a finger wagged at him or been roundly insulted for degrading the Student Handbook, the Torah of the Aggie synagogue? A&M and its piddling interests are not the center of the universe, and any student who realizes this fact probably skips class and all other University functions on a regular basis.

The root cause of A&M faculty's and staff's self-congratulatory and student-deprecating attitude is that they have forgotten who they work for. Out-of-state students pay more than \$10,000 a year to attend this University. In any other business, would the vendor thumb his nose at a customer spending that much money at his kiosk? What hot-dog vendor or garage would

dare insult a customer spending so much money?

Part of the capitalist ethic is that the customer has the ultimate power. The customer's money is what keeps the businessman afloat, so the businessman inevitably does what the customer wants,

except in academia. In the academic realm, it is the customer who serves the service provider.

Students pay to work, like indentured servants. It will not be long before students will not only do homework, but serve as butlers and

bathroom attendants for faculty members. What is next? Will the Corps of Cadets have to shine the bald heads of our administrators rather than those of hallowed campus landmarks? How long will it be before graduate students are picking cotton? Remember, this is the South; it could happen.

Students inevitably feel guilty for skipping class because they feel they are wasting money by not going to class. This is true. One pays for a semester of school, and this time is not made up.

However, what sense does this make? In theory, it is an oxymoron to pay someone to have power over the buyer. Any student should, in theory, have the right to go back and retake classes he missed or complain about a substandard grade. After all, the student paid for this time. In any other field, the student would get it. If one makes an appointment with a barber and does not make it, one does not still have to pay for the haircut one did not get.

The only answer to such un-American and anti-capitalist business practices is a boycott (and if necessary, hostage-taking, raping, pillaging, the usual). How can the students of a major university in such a great country sit by and let The Man have his way with them like a wife beater whose dinner is late.

Americans are traditionally activists, and, in that great tradition, students of this University should stand up and take arms. The only way to get the administration's attention is through bloodshed.

Only when the streets run maroon with the blood of the infidels who run the cult compound that is A&M will sanity return to the educational institutions of the nation. What this campus needs is a leader for the revolt, a Spartacus-like figure. Of course, he will need a Tony Curtis look-alike for a sidekick so that Bowen, after plastic surgery to look more like Olivier, can take him prisoner an question him on the merits of snails and oysters.

Rise up, fellow students, and put your teachers to the sword. And whoever our Spartacus may be — his name is probably Garth or Jethro — but whatever, lead us to everlasting glory (and oysters, or perhaps snails).

Jason Bennyhoff is a senior journalism major.



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Rosie the Riveter