

# Get by in class: sleep through it

by BOB RUSSELL

Lecture classes, where a member of the faculty talks at you, seem to be a common malady in American educational institutions today. This malady appears to be a temporarily incurable one, so the purpose of this article is to help you "get by" (which is, after all, the purpose of American education). There are several methods of getting by, depending upon whether you want to be asleep during the lecture or remain conscious.

Several of my classes have been somewhat analogous to the city dogpounds, in that both put living beings to sleep. In the type of class where I find it virtually impossible to remain awake, I try to make the best of the situation by at least appearing to be awake. Inexperienced class sleepers tend to be "head-bobbers" or "slumpers." The "head-bobbers" intermittently raise or move their heads around during periods of semi-consciousness. "Slumpers" just sort of collapse to either side, forward, or backward, sometimes drooling out of their open mouths. If you are either a "bobber" or "slumper," it is a good idea to have a bib, so as to avoid embarrassment in later classes from drool or dribble on the clothes. Remember, a "bob" can easily turn into a drooling slump.

To appear awake while really being asleep requires much

practice. The safest position (I will soon be coming out with a diagram of the different positions) for this hoax is to place your elbow in a firm place and to lean your head on your hand. The more erect the posture, the better it will look. Several accessories are also needed for this hoax. Dark glasses are a necessity, as visible closed eyes are a giveaway. A heavy book or two will help to hold your elbow firmly in position. (Your textbook might serve this purpose. You might as well use it for something.)

For those of you who like to stay awake, there are several infallible methods for keeping you from going under. One is to put your elbow down on the slick surface of your desk and lean your head on your hand. If you happen to start to fall asleep, you will immediately be reawakened as your elbow slides across the desk and your head thuds on the surface. This hazardous method once worked for me 27 times during a class period, by the count of a classmate. Another way to keep alert and awake is to chew on BIC pens. A mouthful of ink or gagging as you choke on plastic will generally keep you alert, though not necessarily to the lecture.

I hope this article has helped you to "get by." You are probably asleep by now anyway, and besides, I haven't yet figured out how to appear to be reading while sleeping.

Editor,

With fifteen dollars in my hand, I went to the Coliseum and bought my parking sticker. For fifteen dollars I have received incredible protection of my car, a pot-holed parking lot, a vigilante crew of police trying desperately to avoid "having jurisdiction" for my stolen car. (Couldn't I understand that after it was stolen it was off University property?) And now today a vandalized car.

What do the campus police do at night? (We won't consider the day.) They couldn't give tickets because my area always has cars taking two stalls. (The day police "just don't have the time to get over there.") Ah, yes, now I remember. Wasn't that a



# For better or worse

by TOM WIESE

I'm on a cliché hunt. A cliché hunt involves searching out and killing a likely expression that has seen use in the past. In this case, it is a mercy killing that should have been taken care of long ago. The cliché in question has served as an expression of opportunity, a measure of when you have "arrived" in our society.

The best possible position that one could be in ten or twenty years ago was that of "free, white, male and twenty-one." For the America of today, this supposed ideal needs modification. First, the "white" has diminished in importance. This is not to say that it is advantageous to be black, yellow, or red, but there have been some large strides towards racial equality made in recent years. Sure, we have a long way to go, but the near future holds the promise of less discrimination in fact and in attitude, and rightfully so. I choose to remove the term "white" from my quarry.

Second, "male" in his expression has lost much of its importance. The feminism movement and a drive for women's rights has left the female in a position of near equality with the male in job opportunity, equality in voting, and to an extent, social acceptance rivaling that of America's men.

Again, sex discrimination like race discrimination, still has quite a way to go, but the current standing warrants the dropping of the term "male" from the cliché.

THIRD, the arbitrary age designation of "twenty-one" has outlived its usefulness in our society. With the age of majority presently at twenty in Nebraska, with a U.S. Senate move yesterday towards a lowered voting age of eighteen, and with

the increasing strides continuing in education in the lower grades, the socially defined age of maturity has fallen from the magic twenty-one. Any prediction as to the future course of this trend leaves the predictor wondering "How far will this go?"

The lowering of the age of social maturity will most likely continue at a slow rate, but for present purposes, any reference to age in the cliché is unnecessary. Age is at best a poor indication of value to society. And value to society seems to me a much more reasonable measure of an individual.

FINALLY, the issue of freedom in America has found many questioning governmental interventions into the life of the individual.

If you stop and think how free you are, you may come away wondering. Social security requirements, federal agency regulation of countless areas of life and compulsory military service, all limit the freedom of the individual American.

If we take these and many other indications to mean that freedom is rapidly disappearing in America, then the term "free" in our now-dying verbal yardstick should also be deleted.

A consideration of the above observations points to an interesting phenomenon. If the "white", "male" and "twenty-one" components are removed, and I hope there is sufficient reason to do so, there is quite a bit left. If "free" is deleted from our expression, and I hope there is not reason to do so, we are left with essentially nothing.

There is one word that deserves to remain in the original "free, white, male and twenty-one" — and that word is free. It seems that if you lose that, you lose everything.

# ★ ★ ★ RAPPING ★ ★ ★

campus police car which pulled up to the red light on 16th and Vine, looked both ways, turned on his red lights and drove through the traffic light, pulled up to 16th and R (Red light again!) turned on the reds and

drove through. (Kicks!)

There they are, our pride, our campus police. The gray-suited men with guns. Guns? For What!? Style no doubt.

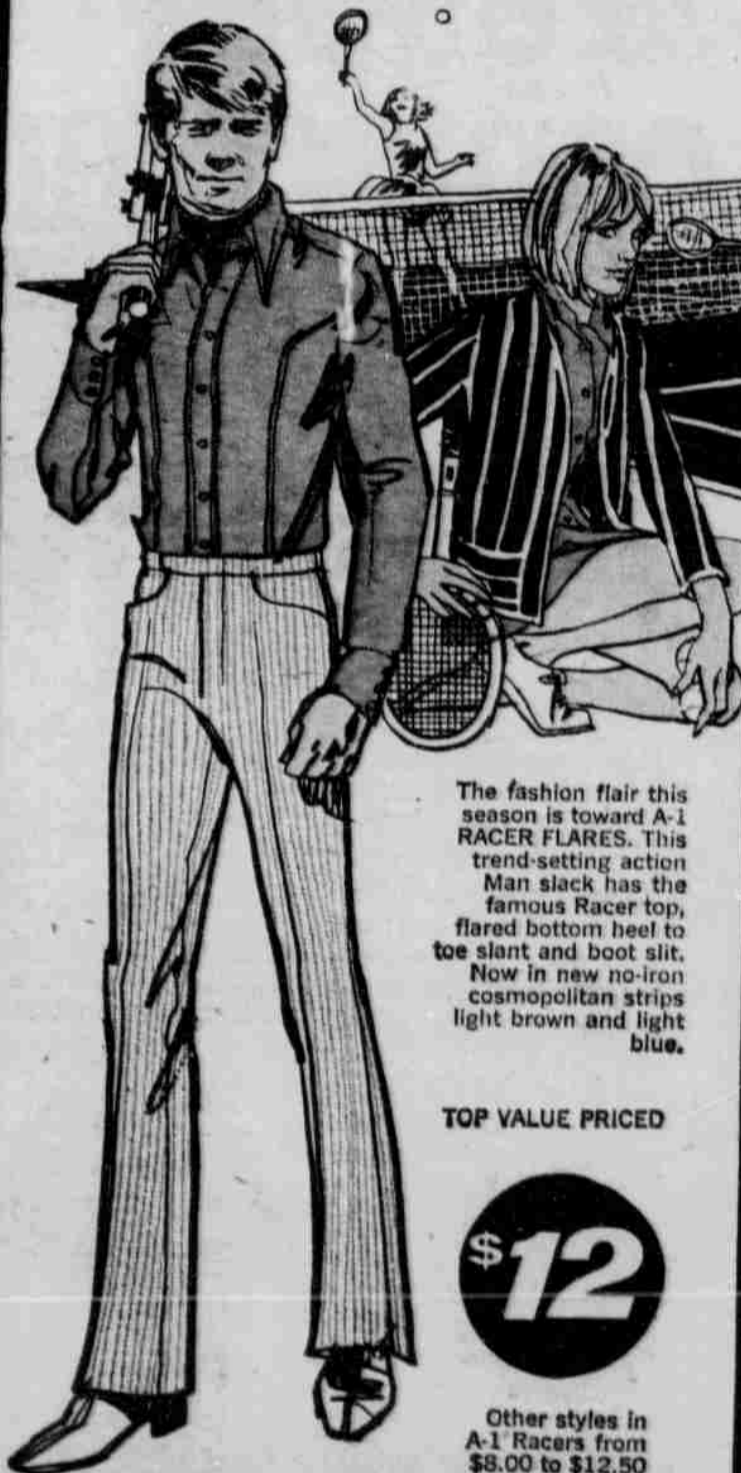
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