

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



Listen Up —

Students Attack Bike Registration Again

Editor:
The recent story in The Battalion about registering all bicycles recalled to mind the days when students at A&M with beards were required to carry a "Beard Permit" signed by the Dean of Men. I, for one, applaud this return to orderliness.

But the Campus Security Office is neglecting some other pressing areas where registrations—and of course fees—are needed. For example, I think of restroom privileges. Every student should pay \$5 per semester for a "Restroom Permit" punched so as to be valid only for those buildings where he is enrolled in class. In addition to cutting down on unnecessary traffic in the restrooms, the imposition of a fee would produce money that could be used for upkeep of the toilets, new uniforms for custodial personnel, and pay for chiropractic visits of the security police, since they are certain to get cricks in the neck from bending over to inspect for embossed permit tags under the seats of bicycles.

Still another area of possible revenue is "Bare Feet." Every student who anticipates going without shoes on this campus should be required to convey that fact both to the Campus Security Office and the Health Center. The student would then (1) pay \$15 for "Bare Feet Insurance" or (2) sign a waiver absolving the University from any liability arising from cut feet, athlete's foot, or athlete's mouth.

Finally, due consideration

should be given to registering handbags, briefcases, satchels, corps boots, cowboy boots, tennis shoes, watches, eyeglasses—especially contact lenses, textbooks, fingernail clippers, and matched pen and pencil sets. Surely anyone with foresight can see potential hazards connected with the above objects. And clearly the University can use the money. Should there still exist a deficit in the budget, perhaps the University could require a "Pedestrian Permit," since obviously all these people walking around interfere with the real function of the school.

Carl Childress
★ ★ ★

Editor:
Here we go again. As if the parking hassle isn't enough, the campus police are starting in on bicycles. Who in the administration assumes that he has the right to force us to register our bicycles when the state of Texas doesn't assume that right? Worse, how does he feel he can tell us that because we own a bike we must have a registration on our person at all times? I carry a draft card by law, but the traffic police don't make laws. What justification is there for three dollars in fees? Wear and tear on the roads?

Worst of all, what is there to be done about it? Write a letter to the Batt? It relieves some frustration but won't accomplish anything. It doesn't seem to matter to the university whether they have the right or not; what can be done?

It sure is discouraging around here sometimes.

Bruce McComas '75

P. S. There is one thing to do. Don't register your bikes. I would rather take mine home.

★ ★ ★

Editor:
We are writing to inquire as to why Texas A&M University continues to ruin its skyline with relics of the past. We are speaking specifically of the water tower which so effectively detracts from the beauty of the A&M campus. When approaching the campus from the north or west, this eyesore effectively obscures the Education Building, one of the nicer buildings on campus, not to mention giving one the impression he is entering a state penitentiary.

Cooperation—Aggie Style

Faith and cooperation, that's all it took.

Yes, friends and neighbors, those two ingredients proved to be the two best friends interested Aggie students and leaders could find Thursday afternoon and evening.

For once students can say, "Gee, a student government group actually did something noticeable for me for a change."

The passage of the resolution by the Civilian Student Council asking for a temporary delay in student bicycle registration wasn't really a cut and dried situation as it may have seemed to some.

Beginning from the time the announcement was made in The Battalion three days ago, student leaders and The Batt have been working feverishly trying to solve some of the many riddles that the registration was going to cause.

Wednesday evening, things began to gel when student leaders found they were unable to find answers to questions being posed to them by students about the fiscal aspect of registration.

Leaders had learned several interesting facts by early Thursday afternoon: several university officials thought students had already registered bikes when paying admission fees; other officials were surprised by the announcement of the registration procedure; and an itemized budget for the distribution of the \$3 fee was no where in sight.

All this and many other factors began to appear as the deadline for starting the procedure continued to draw closer.

When officials began to realize students were dead serious about the subject of fee allocation, somebody made a decision somewhere (who knows where) to keep bike fees separate from auto registration moneys being used for parking lots.

Enter the Students of Concern (SOC) to Thursday night's CSC meeting.

With a gentle push from these students and a concerned CSC president, the resolution was passed by unanimous vote in hopes university officials would listen.

They did.

A quick call to Dean Powell's home after 11 p.m., by The Battalion found the A&M administrator willing to listen to student request for a 'hold' pattern on the registration program.

Hopefully, students will soon be told where the fees are going, and with due justification.

We feel the whole procedure was stumbled into blindly by administrators eager to start 'raking in the chips.' It was like entering rear-end first through the door.

Before students begin paying for a bike system they don't even know will be built, good solid answers are due.

Congratulations for a job well done are in order for a tough Ag to beat—Dean Powell—and many other students who took the time to work for others.

The Battalion

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc. New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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