

Computerized Vehicle Registration Ease Is Possible

By KEITH HENLEY

The history of computerized vehicle registration at A&M spans a short period of three semesters. Although initiation of the system was begun months earlier, the first significant steps were taken at the preregistration of spring semester classes 1973.

Preprinted registration cards were made for all students that would be enrolled for the spring term. For those students with a vehicle registered during the fall semester 1972, the required information was already on the card. This information was taken from the fall semester application and entered into the computer on a master file.

These cards were alphabetized and the students were asked to come by the police office during the preregistration period and make any necessary changes or corrections. Students having blank cards were requested to fill in the required information.

In order to receive a vehicle permit the student presented his fee slip at the University Police office. After checking the amount paid and determining whether the student lived in a dormitory or off campus, the appropriate permit was issued.

For the summer school of 1973, all fees were paid in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The vehicle permits were issued from there and each student was asked to fill out a blank card regardless of whether or not he had a vehicle registered the previous semester. All summer registrants were added to the computer's master file after registration was completed.

Vehicle preregistration for the fall semester of classes 1973, was handled a third way. Filled-in,

preprinted cards were made up only for those students on the computer's master file. These cards were then separated by department and delivered to the appropriate department head. Upon receipt, the department head placed the card in a packet with other cards required for preregistration.

The students were asked to correct their card and return it with the card packet at Cushing Library upon completion of preregistration. All the cards were collected by University Police personnel and realphabetized. Parking permits for preregistered students were issued at the University Police office.

Freshmen and transfer students filled out blank registration cards at their registration during the summer. These cards were kept separate from all other cards and vehicle permits were issued at the Memorial Student Center.

Students registering late, the week prior to the beginning of fall classes, were asked to fill out a blank card and turn it in with their card packet at Cushing Library. Each night, the cards collected were alphabetized and taken to G. Rollie White Coliseum. Late registering students paid their fees the day after registration at G. Rollie White and for their convenience, were allowed to pick up their permit at the same time.

Necessity for preregistered students requiring more than one vehicle permit regardless of where original is obtained, to complete the following:

1. Secure authorization for payment of additional permit(s) at the University Police Office.

2. Proceed to the Fiscal Office for payment.
3. Return to the University Police office with receipt to obtain additional permit(s).

Necessity for late registration students requiring more than one vehicle permit to complete the following:

1. Pay fees at G. Rollie White Coliseum and pick up original permit at booths located nearby.
2. Proceed to University Police office and secure authorization for payment of additional permit(s).
3. Proceed to the Fiscal Office for payment.
4. Return to either University Police Office or G. Rollie White Coliseum with receipt to obtain additional permit(s).

Inefficient method of distributing vehicle permits.

Approximately 6,000 students were required to secure their vehicle permits in two hallways in the basement of the YMCA. One hallway measures eight feet by approximately 40 feet while the other is eight feet by approximately 30 feet. At least one third of the students came the first day of classes making conditions very cramped and uncomfortable.

The remaining 2,000 students, those who registered late were permitted to pick up their permits in a hallway at the Coliseum, at the same time they paid their fees. This hallway measures eight feet by approximately 55 feet with a ceiling height at least twice as much as those in the basement of the YMCA. Conditions are much more satisfactory.

The situation outlined in problems A&B can be solved in a two

step process. The first, a short-run solution, can be used as long as necessary because of its simplicity and effectiveness.

A mimeographed, two part form similar to the present authorization for payment, should be designed. One part should authorize purchase and the other acknowledge receipt. Upon payment of the permit, both parts should be stamped paid. The receipt should then be returned so the student can secure his permit.

Payment should be accepted at the point of permit distribution by either the Fiscal Office or University Police personnel. This method is workable according to Ben F. Trealek, accountant for the Fiscal Office, and does not require the student to go several different places before securing his permit. Through the use of inexpensive mimeographed forms this method can easily be discontinued after a trial period, if deemed unsatisfactory.

The permanent solution requires changing the computer program for fee assessment. At present, there is no way for the computer to charge for a duplicate permit. This is a simple matter, according to Elliot O. Bray, senior systems analyst in charge of automated registration, and there would be no expense involved if it was done at a time when the entire registration system is changed. The system will

be changed within the next three years, Bray said, and possibly as soon as the fall semester 1974.

If adopted, this solution will allow the student to obtain all his required permits at one time. There is nothing complex involved and it easily fits in with the existing procedures of preregistration.

The third problem can be solved by dividing the students alphabetically and distributing permits over a five-day period.

Regardless of the day of the week school starts, the first two weeks should represent a grace

period, in which no tickets would be given for parking in unauthorized lots. Because of the increased numbers of freshmen and transfer students each year and the limited number of parking spaces, two weeks at least, are required to correct the violations. No new organization is required for this method and it should provide for an even distribution throughout the distribution period.

No matter what method of payment and distribution of vehicle permits is used, two points should be emphasized. Distribution of all

permits should be from one specific location. Ideally, it should be from a building such as Coliseum where cramped, uncomfortable areas can be avoided. Secondly, the distribution should be preceded by an extensive publicity campaign informing students exactly where and when vehicle permits may be obtained. If these recommendations are adopted, the payment and distribution of vehicle permits will not only be faster and more efficient, but also more convenient and comfortable for all concerned.



Listen Up

Tenure Protects Against 'Meanness'

Editor: Tenure should not be undervalued. It protects the employee from acts of meanness which could destroy his livelihood. An able administrator is not restricted by tenure rules from firing an incapable instructor; he merely has to document his criticisms fully.

The argument that University professors should not enjoy such a preferential status may be compared with the argument that all employees should be protected against arbitrary, capricious and vindictive firing. Perhaps they would, if they were smart enough to bargain for it.

Kenneth S. Most, Head Department of Accounting

Editor: Re: Randy Bond's Review of "A Passion Play."

Obviously, his review was a poor effort. He states in his review that he didn't even get a chance to listen to the album by Jethro Tull. Therefore, he is unable to make a qualitative judgment about it.

He qualifies himself as a critic by stating that Ian Anderson is average and the sole writer of all the group's words and music. Maybe he should check, "Aqua-

lung." The title cut wasn't written by Anderson.

It seems that the uninformed, average mind cannot be opened to innovative ideas.

Alan Roth

Mr. Bond is not a regular critic for The Battalion, he merely contributed his thoughts on the Tull wax.—Ed.

Editor:

I became very disgusted when I read the review of Jethro Tull's "A-PASSION PLAY." I was amazed at all the cutting and misinformed statements of the album's poor quality. For example, Bond stated that this was poor disc, including the album cover. If Mr. Bond would have bothered to see the fantastically well performed concert "A PASSION PLAY," the cover would have significance. I was very much impressed with the album and concert and find it revolting to find that this article had been written by someone who had not even listened to the album — this was very obvious.

As to Ian Anderson's flute playing, I feel he is indeed a master. It is a remarkable performance, a very talented one I might add. I can see how one who had not seen the concert and not even listened

to this album might lack the knowledge of the masterpiece. However, I fail to see how such a person could feel competent enough to print such ignorance.

Perhaps Randy Bond should stick to his "football games and such" and leave the musically inclined to their interests.

Jane Freely

Editor:

As a follow-up to the list of grievances submitted by the residents of Hotard Hall, Public Announcements Anonymous of White Hall would like to present something to the opposite effect; the advantages of living in Dorm 10. It is our hope that the Hotardians and other similarly oppressed minorities might join us and share the countless blessings with which we have been endowed. Some of the advantages Dorm 10 has to offer are listed below:

- 1) The prestige of belonging to the renowned R-1 Reefer Company
- 2) Wake up service each and every morning at 6:30 provided by 2,000 jubilant c.t.'s singing such immortal tunes as "If I had a high I.Q., I could be a Non-Reg, too."
- 3) The fragrance of good

Duncan food gently carried by southerly trade-winds — "smell of latrine."

4) Friedly neighbors to the north and east. Such fraternal greetings as "Eat S... regs!" are heard commonly.

5) Continuous entertainment by one of the funniest comedy teams in the world, featuring cast of thousands — the c.t.'s

6) The Fourth Floor Zoo — every resident unique and never before seen in captivity.

7) Protection provided by ever vigilant judicial board, featuring such celebrities as "Em High" Hosea and Red Butler.

8) Daily quiet hours (8 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.)

9) Bottle rocket target practice nightly. Choice of civilian military targets. Note: This practice is frowned upon by the judicial board (see No. 7).

Alan W. Schmidt
Kenneth Fels '75

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Batt Commentary

Unique Disservice

Phone calls made to The Battalion and Dr. Jack K. Williams by a reporter from the Houston Chronicle have suggested that there is a clear misunderstanding of the disciplinary actions University administrators can exercise over student actions off campus.

The reporter, following up a tip from Tom Manison, owner of the Camp Manison where several Aggies reportedly cut down the Rice University "victory tree," was trying to find out what the University was going to do about it. "Nothing," was the answer he got from Williams.

As Williams politely explained it to the media representative, he couldn't possibly be held responsible for the actions of over 18,000 students off campus. It's hard enough on campus. Williams then told of a complaint he got from an irate football fan who complained of the bad manners an alleged Aggie fan displayed at the A&M-Rice football game in Houston. The Aggie, apparently did a nice job of constantly providing cigar smoke in the face of the Rice fan. The result: The Rice fan wanted to know what kind of manners Williams was teaching students in College Station. The answer: no manners are being taught at all.

Surely, it is ridiculous to hold a university president responsible for such silly actions.

From reading letters which we haven't printed in The Battalion and comments and questions such as the football fan's and reporter's, maybe it is time for some students to begin acting as the adults most people try to treat them as, not the children contactual reaction seems to elicit.

Incidents such as the tree chopping at Camp Manison do nothing but further the total conservative cowboy image TAMU unjustly retains. Being unique is one thing, but being obnoxious in the process is a disservice to all students, past and present.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed and show the address of the writer.

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