

Your man on the Batt

In a Listen Up letter last Thursday Sam McGinty criticized what he perceived to be a lack of student responsibility in city politics. "Now federal funds are available for mass transit bus systems, but only a city can apply for them and what has ours done?" McGinty asked. "In addition, our 'college town' economy has still not made provisions for bike paths, street improvements or other items which benefit everyone," says McGinty. He then complained about some poorly paved streets in student living areas and the lack of pavement in some black areas. Students who aren't exercising their rights as city citizens of College Station are McGinty's scapegoat for these ills.

McGinty is on the right track, but he picked the wrong specifics to complain about. TAMU is Bryan-College Station's largest industry. Students alone contributed more than \$28.2 million to the B-CS economy last year, and that economic impact calls for significantly more student participation than now is given at City Hall.

But he picked the wrong example because no amount of student input could help the city get federal funding for a bus system at this point and here's why: Before the city can apply for the grants, it must qualify. That sounds logical enough. How does a city qualify? I asked Glenn Cook of the Brazos County Development Center who handles area requests for federal funding. "In every instance I can think of," said Cook, "the city must have a plan." And the city is planning up a storm.

City Manager North Bardell loaned a copy of the "interim comprehensive development plan Phase I for the city of College Station" to The Battalion. The book is a preliminary report which examines the needs and attempts to project the future of the city community.

The study, prepared through the cooperation of the Texas Department of Community Affairs and financed in part through a comprehensive planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is 270 pages and cost the city \$19,000.

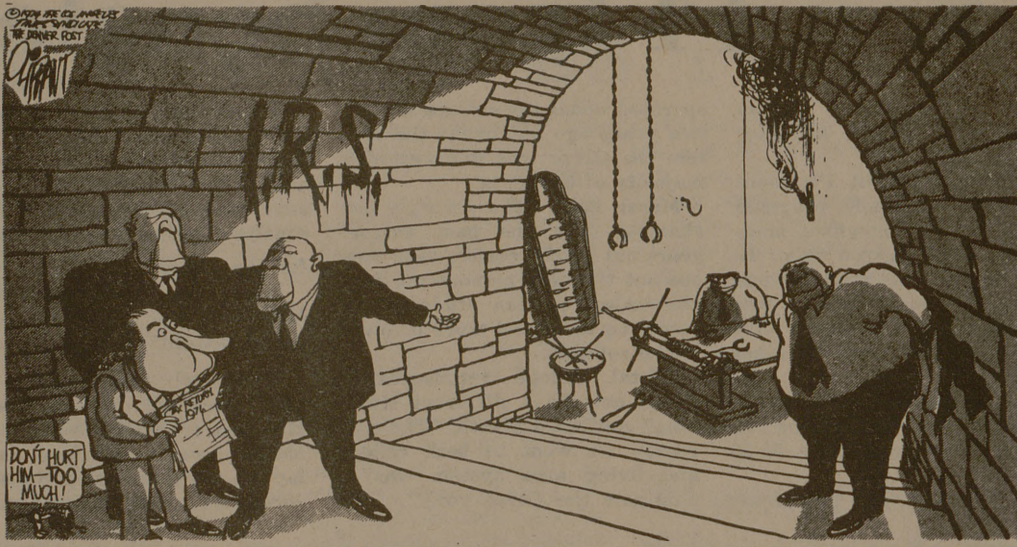
There are two studies forthcoming: Phase II, an interim report and Phase III, implementation.

The plan, as the name implies is comprehensive and it seems transportation problems, although significant, are only a small portion of the city's concern.

Page 1145 and 1146 of the Phase I report identifies a need for sidewalks, bicycle trails, bus and rail transport and cooperation with TAMU officials on bus services and traffic flow. These suggestions were made by citizen committees from the College Station area. One committee, representing TAMU, contained a few people of campus interest including Barb Sears, external affairs committee chairwoman, Layne Kruse, former student body president, General Alvin Leudecke, executive vice president and Sam McGinty.

The contract for Phase II was signed last week and provides for further research into problem areas of transportation.

Phase III should be completed toward the end of this year and should provide the necessary information the city needs to draw up a plan and apply for aid. Until then, the College Station citizens, students and all, will, as McGinty says "continue to get ripped off for buses, and drive bumpy streets."



Listen Up

Give more than your money

Dear Editor:

This letter is to the entire student body of TAMU. It concerns the mandatory student services fee which students pay.

Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Rudder Center Forum your Student Senate will hear several student service fee proposals for the 1974-75 year.

Now is your chance to come and voice your opinion on the recommended allocations for your money.

Next year, it will be too late. This is probably the most important thing done by your senate each year so it is to your best interest to give a damn. If you can't come and hear the arguments, you should call and let your senator know how you feel about such things as optional athletic fees, etc.

Remember, now is the time, for next year it will be too late.

Ron Miori

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Editor:

I must agree with Doc Shroff that solutions to our problems must emanate from the educated. However, after reading his proposal to eliminate the automobile, I seriously wonder if Mr. Shroff can claim membership to the class. Let's hope he isn't as naive and unrealistic as his ludicrous

proposal would have us believe.

Doc, just take a moment to reflect on the large degree of this nation's economy that is dependent on automobiles. Think of the millions employed by the automobile and related industries: steel, rubber, oil, gasoline, sales, parts, repairs, etc.

Yes, Doc, the automobile is the product of a progressive free enterprise system that has built a strong nation and economy, and subsequently raised the standard of living. Doc, if you want to ride a bicycle, fine; but don't fault those who "grow fat" driving their cars, or want to "buy repair parts or wash them." You see, Doc, it's their own prerogative in a free society. As for "gas guzzling," perhaps it's because of the Environmental Protection Agen-

cy's unrealistic, impromptu demands on the industry. Engineering problems must (and will) be solved by engineers, not bureaucrats.

Surely, Doc, you don't really think trains and busses can fulfill our transportation needs. Apparently, Schroff, you don't realize what a farce Amtrak and most mass transit systems are. To think that we should depend on these failures as our sole transportation source, not just in big cities, but all across the nation! It must be an Aggie joke.

Come by sometime and I'll let you see my non-foreign, non-compact car. It gets 20 MPG, despite its mammoth emission pump, and will perform respectably on any road course.

Dick L. Davis

SPEED READING

Classes Are Now Forming At The Reading Improvement Center

For Additional Information Call
Mrs. Avery Goodgame
846-3812

Student Government asks for revenue to be doubled

Student Government asked that its fee allocation be more than doubled and Student Publications requested a similar increase Friday night at a meeting of the Student Service Fee Committee of Student Government.

It was the committee's final meeting to hear budget requests from organizations that receive Student Services fees.

A \$4,200 expenditure for a half-time secretary in the summer and a full-time one during the school year represented the largest single item in SG's \$9,060 requested increase. SG received \$9,000 last year.

SG President Randy Ross who represented SG before the committee, said \$1,300 was needed to subsidize publishing a professor evaluation report. Other increases Ross named included an extra \$500 for anticipated increases in telephone use, a \$1,000 boost for use of the Copy Center and a \$360 fiscal charge, which had been handled through the Memorial Student Center gift shop.

Associate Director of University Information Lane Stephenson and Battalion interim editor Rod Speer represented Student Publications as it asked for \$81,900 from Student Services compared to the \$45,000 if received a year ago.

Stephenson reminded the committee that revenue would go only to The Battalion, as the Aggeland is under an optional fee. He cited higher printing costs and the newsprint shortage as major reasons for the requested increase. He added that as of Dec. 31 The Battalion was \$1,531 in debt, losing money in every month except December.

Stephenson said he expects advertising rates to be increased but added the increased revenue will be somewhat offset by lost advertisers. "Many organizations have a fixed budget for advertising and we wouldn't get any more revenue from them."

Only \$1.28 from a semester's Student Services fee is allocated to The Battalion "which means a student pays less than two cents an issue" Stephenson said.

He added that the proposal submitted to the committee needed revision since it did not reflect an almost \$1,000 per month increase in printing charges recently estimated by the A&M Press for next year.

Dr. Hal Powe, representing Student Health Services, requested a \$10,516 increase to \$616,423 from Student Hospital Fees, which were separated from services fees last year. He said the

Health Center treats an average of 300 students daily and sometimes as many as 500.

Powe was asked if he would support an optional hospital program since 40 per cent of the student body is married, and many married students have separate hospitalization protection. "The idea has a lot of merit," Powe said. "The Health Center would not go broke under an optional program." Powe also supported a \$1 per visit user fee and added, "If we charged everyone for drugs, doctor's fees and laboratory fees we would make a half million dollars a year."

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, defended the budget for a student legal adviser, a program which is expected to be instituted by mid-semester. The budget included \$13,000 as a salary for the adviser, who has yet to be selected, \$5,304 for a legal secretary and \$5,000 for an operating budget. The student lawyer program received \$15,500 from services fees last year.

Dr. Koldus said the lawyer would have litigation power although the student would be responsible for court costs and filing fees. He added that his office is seeking a young person for the job.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a University and Community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

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.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierb, W. C. Harrison, Randy Ross, T. Chet Edwards, and Jan Faber.

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

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MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
After the close of business December 31, 1973

ASSETS	LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH
Mortgage Loans and Other Liens on Real Estate	Savings Accounts
4,727,635.87	5,359,768.02
All Other Loans	Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank
124,945.95	10,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	Other Liabilities
67,355.32	113,999.69
Investments and Securities	General Reserves
540,265.97	Federal Insurance
Fixed Assets Less Depreciation	75,011.05
24,992.42	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH
Deferred Charges and Other Assets	5,558,778.76
73,583.23	
TOTAL ASSETS	
5,558,778.76	

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF BRAZOS:

We, Glynn A. Williams, as President, and Ernest A. Wentreck, as Secretary-Treasurer, of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Bryan, located at Bryan, Texas, each of us do solemnly swear that the statement hereof is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

GLYNN A. WILLIAMS, President
ERNEST A. WENTRCEK, Secretary-Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of January, 1974

LILY C. WATSON,
Notary Public, Brazos County, Texas

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