

Editor's Notes

By ROD SPEER

The Student Senate will review its fee committee's recommendations for Student Services Fee allocation in a meeting tonight.

The question of a user fee for athletics will come up, at least in the form of a minority report of the fee committee. The report, prepared by committee members Tom Taylor and John Nash, calls for instituting a \$1 user fee for attending home football games accompanied by reducing services fees from \$19 to \$17.50 per semester. An alternative plan would set the user fee at \$2, reducing the fee to \$16.25.

Under the first program, a student attending five home football games would save \$3 from a year's worth of services fees but spend \$5 for his football tickets. The non-football watcher would save, of course, the \$3 but would still be helping to subsidize athletics. Over \$77,000 would still come out of Student Services fees for athletics, compared to about \$198,000 without a user fee.

Wally Groff, athletic business manager, said no problems would be created by switching to a user fee. "Most students buy date tickets and it would only mean collecting an extra dollar or two," he said. With a predicted increased enrollment to over 20,000, Groff anticipates that even with a \$1 user fee student attendance would not differ significantly from last year's average of 11,000 per game. Without the fee, he suspects the students to number 12,500 per home game.

Groff doesn't oppose implementing a user fee but would prefer to keep the present arrangement. "I'm for what brings the most students to the games," he said, adding that Kyle Field is only sold out bi-annually for the Texas game. Groff said A&M's athletic fee per student is second from the lowest in the conference, next to Rice University. The University of Houston and Texas Tech have switched to half price tickets for students in an effort to cut down attendance in their overcrowded stadiums.

Large crowds are desirable but not at the expense of the thousands that don't watch football. The same argument could be made for all of the student services and maybe that would be the best method for some. But it would be a step in the right direction to put the burden of the financial pressure on the users of an activity rather than on the non-users.

Lease Line—

Apartment rentals protected by Trade Practices Act

By BARB SEARS

The Deceptive Trade Practices Act is a recently enacted business code aimed at protecting consumers from fraud. It was proposed and escorted through the Texas Legislature by Attorney General John Hill, who has a long record as a consumer advocate.

In an apartment rental situation, the tenant is, in effect, the consumer, and thus this act also applies to the landlord-tenant relationship. This makes landlords liable for fraud should they be guilty of any of the deceptive trade practices declared unlawful by the code.

One of the first statements in the act is that "false, misleading or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce are hereby declared unlawful." This clause can be applied to a situation which arose recently, in which the model apartment which an apartment complex displayed to prospective tenants had more furniture in it than the apartment which they received after signing the lease. This was without a doubt, a case of a misleading act on the part of the landlord.

THIS CLAUSE CAN ALSO be applied to advertising, although a later portion of the act further specifies that "advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised" is unlawful. There are several apartment complexes in this community that have advertised falsely. In one case, the signs and newspaper ads promised central heating and air conditioning, and yet no air conditioning was provided.

The Deceptive Trade Practices Act also holds that merchants may not represent goods as being new if they are used or secondhand, and this would also apply to apartments. A landlord having built a new section onto his apartment complex could not advertise all of his apartments as new. The landlord could also not simply remodel the apartments and peddle them as new.

ANOTHER PORTION OF THE ACT forbids the advertisement of goods "with intent not to supply a reasonable expectable public demand" unless the ads state that the quantity is limited. An apartment owner can thus not advertise only his economy or low-price apartments to attract apartment-seekers and then not have a reasonable number available to rent out.

Should a landlord violate clauses of this act, he may be prosecuted by the consumer protection division of the Attorney General's office, which will seek compensation both for any wronged individuals as well as a fine which goes to the state. A consumer, or tenant, may go to court for himself or through class action. This method, however, requires that 30 days notice be given to the landlord, by certified mail, and that the landlord be allowed 30 days to offer a settlement outside of court action.

The Deceptive Trade Practices Act should be of great assistance in the area of landlord-tenant relations. For as Attorney General Hill says, "Everybody should want to eliminate fraud from the state of Texas."

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. Hierth, 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.

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.

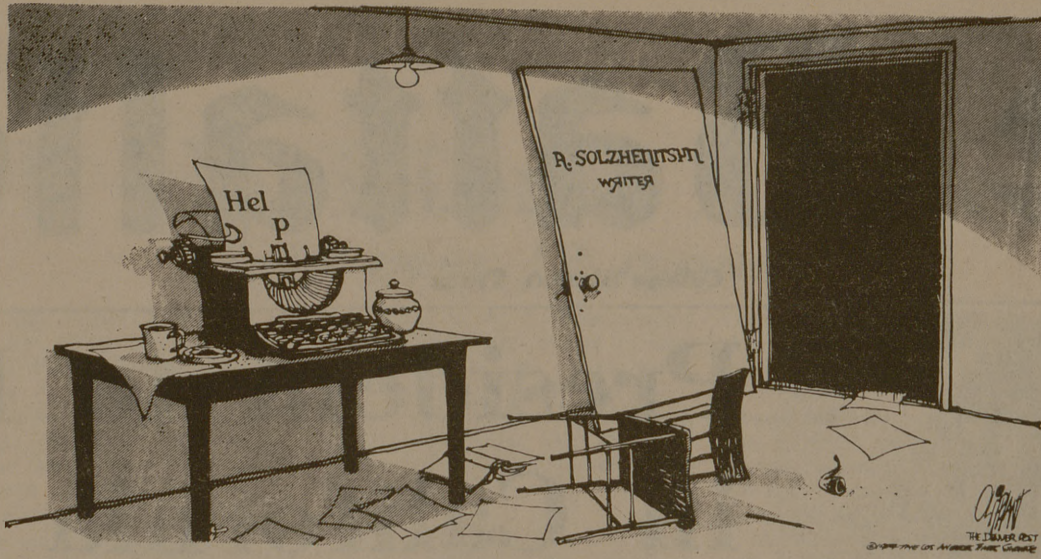
MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

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.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Interim Editor Rod Speer
Assistant to the Editor Greg Moses
Managing Editor Stephen Goble
News Editor T. C. Gallucci
Photo Editor Gary Baldasari
Sports Editor Kevin Coffey
Ass't. Sports Editor Ted Boriskie



Listen Up

Kosub, Williams hit for SCONA move

Editor:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Steve Kosub and Jack Williams for deciding what is best for me and TAMU by not allowing Mr. Kunstler to speak in the upcoming SCONA conference. Besides, who wanted William Kunstler to speak anyway? I agree with Mr. Kosub when he said "that Kunstler couldn't contribute to the program." His record isn't too impressive, he's only defended in court the greatest human rights leader of our time, Martin Luther King. He has also defended many others who were convicted more for their "political views" rather than the crime they were tried for. Besides, what

could Kunstler add to this year's theme, "Reordering of American Priorities." Obviously civil rights, the "Chicago Seven" and the Wounded Knee incident are not among America's priorities.

I would also like to express my thanks to SCONA for taking only "small contributions of \$100-\$200" from their supporters so that they can be "independent in their programming" of the SCONA speakers.

I am just happy that the SCONA leaders and Jack Williams decided that Kunstler would not be in the best interest of TAMU (or was it the interest of those "small contributors" that they were most concerned of). I propose that Jack Williams, and these other "concerned student leaders," would continue to decide what is in my best interest and the best interest of TAMU. Censor our weekly magazines and newspapers of undesirable views and facts, issue a list of other political persons like Kunstler who are not for God and country, Nixon, Mom, apple pie and the girl we left behind.

Rick Hughes

Editor:

While reading Doc Schroff's letter I was initially disgusted by what I thought was a totally perverse idea. But, in reiterating what I remembered from my "pre-wheel days," I was impressed by how well I managed.

I think A&M ought to initiate some dramatic program; take a leadership position in what might be a solution to the fuel crisis. We should be in a "give up your keys" campaign whereby people would give up their keys to a volunteer office who would hold them. (This, of course, would be a token gesture as a duplicate can open and start cars.) This might motivate other campuses and organizations to initiate such a program in a competitive spirit.

I realize that the above suggestion might be met with some consternation by local oil dealers, but we could contribute our gas dollars to the middle man and really hurt the big oil dealers.

There are a great many far-reaching effects this could have; improvements in public transportation, decrease in air pollution, etc. I challenge the A&M student body and faculty to give up their keys (or just give them to me).

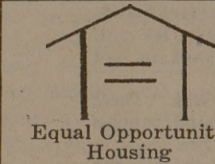
Tom Cotton

Editor:

In reference to Thursday, January 24's Battalion concerning athletic fees being optional, we would like to say that in our opinion the present plan is the best. This is because, not only is it cheaper to all Aggies, but it also keeps our traditions and spirit stronger. Through the present system, everyone is able to attend any athletic activity they wish without having to worry about the cost which might otherwise prevent them from attending. The other "two per cent" of students who do not attend should not complain about the minor fee they pay because it is the least they can do for their school if they don't have the pride to support their teams.

Joan Griggs
Johnna Ramsey
Rae Wilkinson

It is more than "two per cent" of the student body that don't attend athletic events. Home football games, the athletic department's largest single drawing card, drew over 11,000 per game last fall, which is impressive but far short of 98 per cent—Ed.



Equal Opportunity Housing

INSURANCE — HOME LOANS BUSIEK-JONES AGENCY

1200 Villa Maria — 823-0911
FARM & HOME SAVING ASSOCIATION (Nevada, Mo.)



JUNIORS and SOPHOMORES

1974 AGGIELAND CLASS PICTURE SCHEDULE

- H-L Jan. 28 - Feb 1
- M-O Feb. 4 - Feb. 8
- P-R Feb. 11 - Feb. 15
- S-V Feb. 18 - Feb. 22
- W-Z Feb. 25 - Mar. 1

Pictures will be taken from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

At

UNIVERSITY STUDIO

115 N. Main

846-8019

North Gate

(Bring fee slips)

Freshmen Ball Corsages

Buy your orchid from Student Floral Concession

Best Buy In Town

Wed. Noon-5 - Thurs. 8-5

In The Floriculture Greenhouse

Girls! Don't Forget His Boutonniere