

Your Man at Batt

by Greg Moses

The Traffic Panel recommended a 100 percent increase in parking fees for next semester. "Why double parking sticker fees?" asked Jim Deaconson and 11 other residents of Hart Hall.

After reading an article in last Thursday's Batt Deaconson said: "The spokesman for the panel declared specifically that 'when a student is issued a sticker he will not be guaranteed a place to park.' Wow! Even now students complain bitterly when they have to park way out at Zachry. But this year the Zachry lot always has extra spaces — next year it is predicted that some students won't be able to park anywhere, \$27 fee or not! In addition to paying double for the same old hassle with the KK, any student who buys a sticker will take the risk of paying double for nothing."

Robert L. Melcher from the vice president of student services office said, "A parking sticker is a hunting license for parking spaces. Registration is no guarantee of a parking space." And according to the A&M Vehicle Regulations Policy Statement, "...registration in itself is no guarantee of a parking space near the place where you work, your dorm, or your class. The responsibility of finding a legal parking space rests with the vehicle operator, and lack of space is not a valid excuse for violation of any parking regulation."

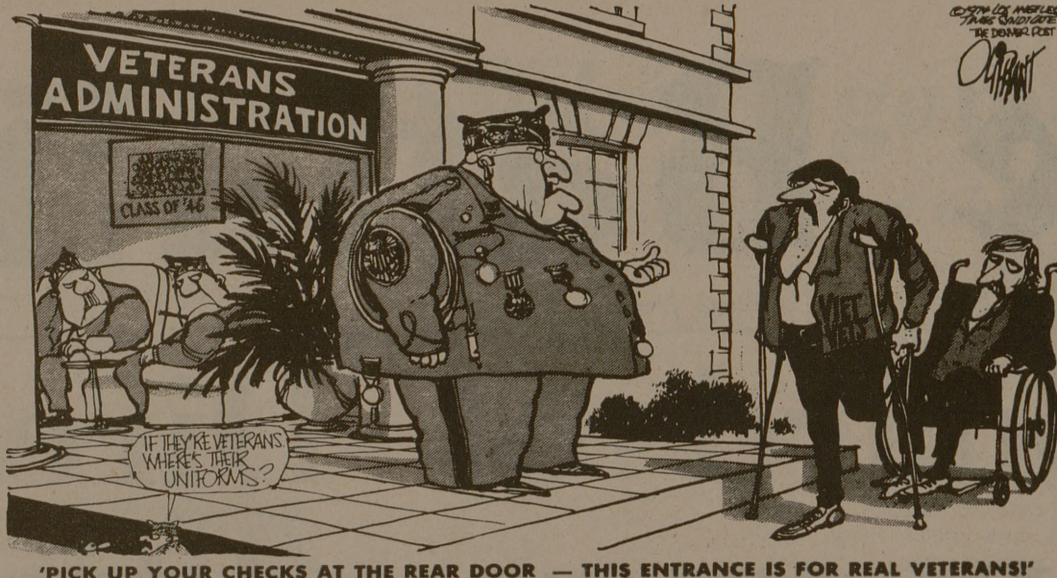
Melcher said registration is for control and security purposes. The stickers make it easy for the University Police to identify the owner.

Again referring to the Batt article Deaconson said, "A member of the panel...remarked that the panel was 'definitely not going to try to meet the demand' for the approximately 3,000 cars the university is predicted not to have space for next fall. The spokesman gave no reason for why they weren't going to try."

The university provided 9,301 spaces this year for 12,287 registered cars. That leaves a surplus of 2,986 cars, if all cars are parked on campus at one time; an unlikely situation. Next year an additional 1,721 spaces should be available for an estimated increase of 1,520 cars. This will mean a surplus of 2,785 cars. But this is assuming that PA 61 and PA 62 will be completed. According to Eugene Ray of grounds maintenance, there is an asphalt shortage. This could cause a delay in the construction of these two areas and 880 less spaces.

Parking fees have to pay for parking area construction and maintenance since A&M cannot get state money for parking. In 1972, 1,000 spaces for PA 50 were constructed for \$269.96 per space. PA 55, also constructed in 1972, cost \$307.61 per space for 239 spaces. Negotiations are under way for PA 61 (560 spaces) at an estimated \$462.41 per space. The increase has to be met through parking fees.

Maintenance costs rose from \$2.75 per space per year in 1972 to the present \$3.87 per space per year.



Estimates for next year run over \$4, another increase.

Parking areas are not built on a pay-as-you-go basis. The university borrows money for the contracts and the parking fees pay back the loans. This brings in interest rate considerations. As Melcher explained it: a 6 percent interest rate on money borrowed to build a \$269.96 space in 1972 means an extra \$16.20 for that space each year. (An office economics major says the amount should decrease as the principal decreases, but that gets a bit complicated.) Interest rates are now about 8.5 per cent which means \$39.30 interest on a \$462.41 space.

Put these figures together and the annual cost per parking space maintenance and interest rose from \$18.95 in 1972 to an estimated \$33.30 in 1974.

After looking over this data, a traffic committeeman recommended a \$35 student parking fee for the academic year. The panel rejected it. Another motion called for a \$20.25 student parking fee for the academic year. The panel rejected it. The next motion, calling for a \$27 student parking fee for the academic year passed. The fee is twice the \$13.50 student parking fee this year.

All the recommended fees were twice what they are this year except for the Hensel and College View areas. A reserved space in the Zachry parking area now costs \$48; double that for \$96.

When the parking lots planned for the fall are completed, we will be just about out of grassy spaces to replace with asphalt covers. The alternatives are restricted campus parking or high-rise parking facilities. High-rise lots will cost an estimated \$1,400 to \$1,500 per space, said Melcher. If these lots have to pay for themselves, the cost is prohibitive, he added.

The proposal is now pending approval of Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services. He will delay his decision until after he meets with Tom Cherry, vice president for business affairs. Koldus said he wants to study the long range parking situation. If the crunch for parking money is temporary, he may be able to spread the financial burden over a long period with less annual fees.

Listen up Coed caucus gives support to Farenthold

Editor:
The Brazos County Chapter of the Texas Women's Political Caucus (Women's Awareness Workshop) is pleased to announce our overwhelming endorsement and support of Mrs. Frances ("Sissy") Farenthold for Governor of Texas.

Mrs. Farenthold's record speaks for itself. She was the first chairperson of the National Women's Political Caucus, and has worked long and hard to insure that all people have an equal opportunity to do the work they want to do, and to get paid for their work according to their capabilities. She is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Texans—for workers, for the elderly.

We urge all Texans to join us in voting for Mrs. Farenthold this Saturday, May 4, in the Democratic primary.

Barnee Escott
Kathy Oaks
co-Chairpersons
Brazos County Chapter
Texas Women's Political
Caucus

Listen up Concern shown in state rep contest

Editor:
As a student of this great university, I am, of course, greatly concerned with A&M graduates being elected to state offices. Since A&M is a state institution we depend almost entirely on state General Revenue funds and state matching funds to secure federal grants.

Bill Presnal is familiar with this complex funding structure because he has served us on the all-important House Appropriations Committee.

Let's re-elect the man who has worked so effectively for us in the past!

We need Bill Presnal as our state representative.

Chris Williams

Repeat

Editor:
In order to insure the state staff and former students A&M, of continued growth, prosperity for our university becomes increasingly important. We must elect representatives who have strong legislative. We must elect those that know the issues as well as the ropes.

In the difficult session beginning in January, nothing can place or be more valuable honesty and experience.

The man we must elect is Bill Presnal. The immediate future of our university depends on it.

Tim Jones

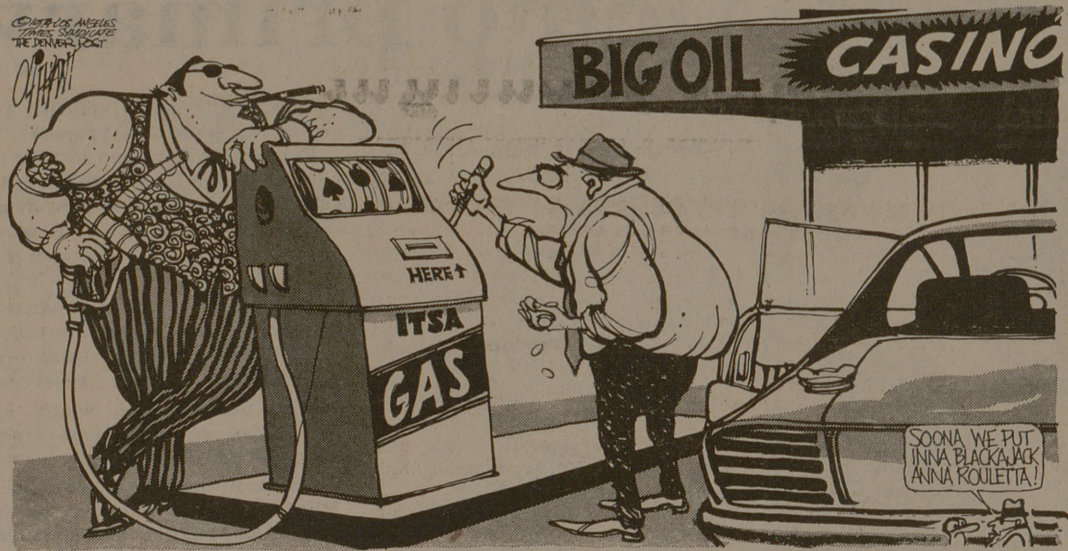
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- Passed legislation authorizing the College of Marine Sciences.
- Passed a constitutional amendment permitting state employees to serve on city councils and school boards.

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