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SG 'gambling' with user fee

By **MIKE BRUTON**
Sports Editor

If you were playing seven-card stud and your opponent bets a million dollars with three aces showing and you only have a pair of tens with one card left to be dealt, would you bet? Student Government would. And that's exactly how they played their cards in handling the recent athletic user fee controversy.

It takes a lot of nerve to bluff under such circumstances, knowing that your opponent is clearly in the driver's seat. The Texas A&M Athletic Department is definitely in the driver's seat and they aren't obligated to agree to any proposal made by SG. They could pull out of student service fees altogether if they wanted to and charge everybody \$7 per ticket without any options.

The user fee proposal authored by former SG vice president of finance Curt Marsh asked for season passes for football games at a price of \$10 with single football tickets at \$2.50. Wednesday morning the public was informed that the package would have season passes for \$17.50 and \$7 for students not taking the option.

In response to price hike in the user fee proposal the student senate voted unanimously to boycott the Athletic Department's decision. That's like an angry bull running head on into a speeding locomotive. The Athletic Department stands only to gain. A boycott accomplishes nothing.

Texas A&M has an excellent athletic program going and they could easily sell the 10-12,000 tickets that the students would leave them for each game, and make more money.

As a matter of fact, the old method of taking about \$9 per semester from student services fees wasn't that bad.

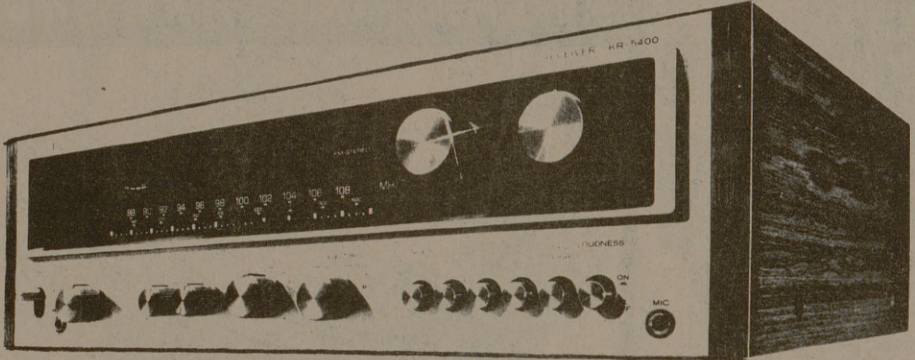
A student had free admission to football, basketball, baseball and track events for only \$18 per year. And A&M's Athletic Department was very good about allotting a reasonable amount of tickets to students last year considering the fact that they could sell them to a non-student for \$7. You won't find another university in the southwest that could equal their student ticket allocations for football games.

SG is in no position to make demands. And by doing so they possibly have made the ticket situation for students worse for next year. I would very much like to see lots of students at the games, because it's all a part of university life.

At present the user fee proposal has been halted and the boycott called off so that negotiation can continue between SG and the athletic department with hopes of a compromise. All this could have been prevented had SG left well enough alone. An issue has been created where there was no issue. If we had stuck to the old system it would have cost only \$8 more per year for free admission to all home

athletic events. As it is things are getting much worse. If the Athletic Department chooses to exercise the prerogative to pull out of student services it could be bad news for a lot of students.

I can see it now. Joe College wants to take a date to the A&M game. He's having a hard time buying a ticket and he's broke as usual. He writes a \$14 hot check and makes it to the ticket office only to find a sold-out sign. He locates a resale scalper and revises his hot check to read \$30. Don't laugh. Unless the controversy is straightened out this could be you.



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Top meet of the year

Tracksters to perform in tough Drake Relays

By **PAUL McGRATH**
Managing Editor

"It's a great track meet. The top track meet of the year," said Charles Thomas, Head Coach of the Texas A&M cindermen.

He was referring to the Drake Relays sponsored by that university in Des Moines, Iowa. "Every event is like a big tournament," Thomas said. He compared it to the NIT basketball tournament for the type of competition present. Thomas said many schools just send one relay team or individual to compete.

A&M will send a 14 man squad northward to compete in seven individual and four relay events. Gerald D'Ambrosio, Doug Brodhead, Robert Harris and Ray Brooks comprise the 440-yard quartet. The 880-yard relay has D'Ambrosio, Brodhead, Brooks and Chuck Butler and the mile relay enters Sam Dierschke, Butler, D'Ambrosio and Brodhead.

Shifton Baker will run in both the 120- and 440-yard hurdles. Bill Newton will throw the javelin and Brad Blair competes in the pole vault. Lynn Byrd and Tommy Owens will leap in the high and long jumps respectively. Richard Adams will run the 26-mile Federation marathon.

The rest of the Aggies will go to a pickup meet in Austin with several other Southwest Conference squads not going to Drake.

The travel squad had some difficulties in obtaining transportation to the Relays. The original chartered plane was to have four teams

but Braniff sued the company because of a regulations stating that only two teams may be carried on the same plane.

Thomas was able to get another flight but had to cut his travel squad from 24 to 14.

TRACK CINDERS

Recruiting is going pretty well for assistant coach Ted Nelson. He has signed another South African by the name of Tony Wheeler and a Virginian named Walter Jachimowicz (no kidding folks). Wheeler has run a 1.48.6 half mile and a 47.3 quarter. Jachimowicz is the state champion in the mile and half mile. The Ag-

gies have also got their eyes on Gregory Clark (a 48.0 quarter mile), sprinter named Randy Baker from Houston Westchester, Steve Sims from Corpus Christi who runs a 13 century and a 21.3 in the 220 and Ronnie Keys a high jumper who has cleared 6-10.

Former Aggie squadder, now a Ranger Juco, Craig MacPhil, wants to return to Aggieland. However his grades may pose a problem.

The coaches' secretaries have unanimously selected Coach Nelson as having the sexiest hair of all the coaches. The Batt is now open to a response from his wife.

NCAA considering football playoff

KANSAS CITY (AP) — The National Collegiate Athletic Association launched its special meeting on economy Thursday and heard a recommendation for the establishment of a national college football championship playoff tournament as a possible fund-raising tool.

The suggestion was presented to the opening session of this emergency meeting by Carl Maddox, athletic director of Louisiana State University and a member of the NCAA Steering Committee.

Maddox had received the idea in a letter from Earle Edwards, a former football coach at Penn State, Michigan State and North Carolina State, and former president of the American Football Coaches Association.

In his letter, Edwards suggested that a national championship tournament could raise up to some \$15 million in gross revenue, providing payments of as much as \$50,000 or more to each football-playing school in Division 1 of the NCAA.

He suggested that eight teams be invited to participate with four quarter-final games to be played the first weekend in December, two

semifinal games to be played between Dec. 20 and Dec. 23 and a final game in January, not earlier than Jan. 8.

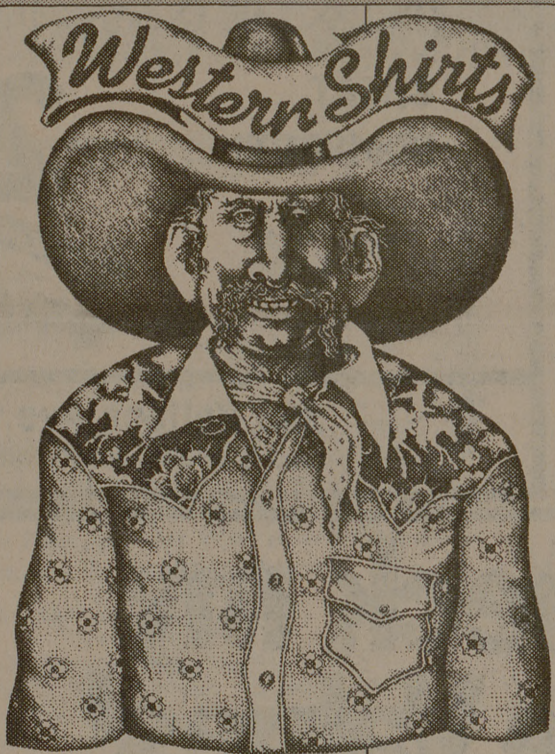
Maddox said he thought the idea had merit. "It is the first time a suggestion has been made for a tournament that would not interfere with bowl structures. The bowls, of course, are very important to us."

But Darrell Royal, football coach at the University of Texas and currently president of the American Football Coaches Association, did not consider the idea a workable one.

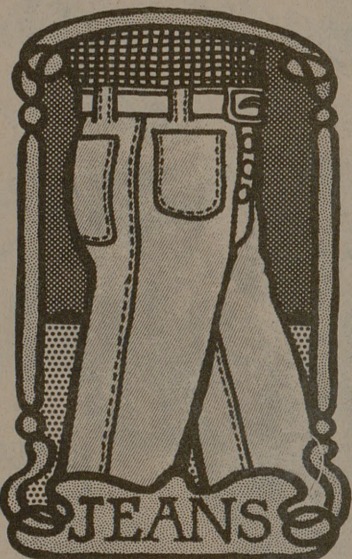
"For one thing, it would hit right in the middle of our exam schedule," said Royal. "We must recognize our obligation to the student side of the student-athlete. First and foremost we have an academic obligation to the student."

"A tournament would raise money and would generate a lot of excitement and be good for college football," Royal continued, "but really, how much football can you play? I think 11 games and then bowl stretches it pretty good right now."

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