

Confusing User fee melodrama

By JERRY GEARY

While Student Government may be getting more melodramatic each day, it's also becoming very confusing.

Concerning the athletic user fee, you might be wondering: "What caused student government to threaten a boycott of the \$17.50 athletic user fee?"

And "What finally happened?"

First of all, SG's recommended user fee of \$10 and \$3.50 for individual football game tickets was adopted by the Athletic Department yesterday afternoon.

But Student Government's threatened boycott was caused by a series of communication mishaps between SG and the Athletic Department.

These "mishaps" began April 17 when Bob Shokes, student representative on the Athletic Council, met with Student Body President Jeff Dunn and two other SG leaders to discuss the Athletic Department's \$25 user fee plan and \$7 individual football game tickets.

Shokes told us he was going to shoot for a \$17.50 plan, said Dunn. He also said Shokes did not convey to those in the meeting that there was going to be a definite increase. They thought it was just a proposal.

On Monday, April 21, Shokes went to the Athletic Council and argued that students would not be able to cope with the \$25 price hike. Consequently, the council lowered the user fee to 17.50 but kept individual game tickets at \$7.

Last Tuesday, Assistant Athletic Director of Business Affairs Wally Groff, Athletic Council Chairman Dr. Charles Sampson and Assistant Athletic Director Marvin Tate met with President Williams who sanctioned their \$17.50 proposal but told them to delay any action until Student Government had looked at the plan again.

On Wednesday morning, Shokes and former SG President Steve Eberhard, saw Marvin Tate and argued about the \$7 individual game ticket. Another meeting with Tate, Groff and Athletic Director Emory Bellard between several SG leaders resulted in more argument about the \$7 tickets. At this point, someone called Sampson and Williams. Finally, approval was given for a \$5 individual ticket.

I asked Dunn why he didn't fight to lower the \$17.50 user fee at the meeting.

"We didn't start arbitrating about the \$17.50 because we thought it was impossible to get it any lower," said Dunn.

Then I asked him why the Athletic Department would give Williams the impression that the Senate Executive Committee had approved the plan.

"Because we didn't say anything against it, they thought we favored it," said Dunn.

At the same time, Dunn said, "We were not acting on behalf of the executive committee at the meeting. We did not know the executive committee had to give an official approval then."

By Wednesday afternoon, Dunn was informed by former VP of Finance Curt Marsh that there

was an alternative to the \$17.50 plan — SG's own \$10 proposal.

After the senate voted to boycott the Athletic Department's \$17.50 plan, a late night meeting between the two parties revealed several communication lapses between the two but neither would yield any ground.

After a lengthy recess in which he telephoned Sampson and Bellard, Tate announced the entire situation would be held "in limbo," meaning that no user fee of any type would be charged to students until the matter was cleared.

By Thursday afternoon, Williams had met with SG leaders and assured them of \$3.50 individual tickets and endeavors to lower the user fee to \$10.

Later the same day, Groff increased projected revenue from football games (anticipating a very successful season) in a meeting with Dunn and Shokes.

The three men agreed on a compromise that left the user fee at \$10 if a contingency fund was established to cover any financial losses.

Yesterday, SG and the Athletic Department met to reaffirm the agreement. If the Athletic Department suffers any financial loss next year, they will go to President Williams with "our hands held out for money."

Throughout the affair, the Athletic Department has claimed the best time to sell student football tickets is preregistration.

But was it fair to students to do this before preregistration?

No. Student Government acted in the best interests of the students in threatening a boycott of the user fee.

If the Athletic Department really cared about the students and had not tried to sneak this price hike through, it would have acted sooner on the matter.

I just can't buy their excuse that "preregistration caught us napping."

By waiting until the last minute, the Athletic Department received exactly as much funding as it deserved — nothing more than what was recommended by the Student Senate.

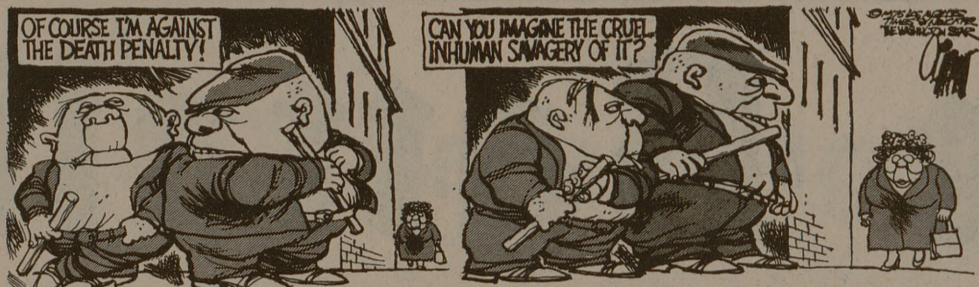
Looking back on the entire episode, I can say if Student Government had not taken action last Wednesday night, I would be paying \$17.50 for an athletic user fee rather than \$10.

Thank you, Student Government.

Batt seeks reporters

The Battalion is seeking reporters for now, next fall and the summer. Experience is helpful, but not necessary.

Anyone interested should come by Student Publications, room 216 of the Reed McDonald Services Building.



Listen Up

Streamline distribution

Possible with new ticket system

Editor:

It seems as if the students are going to be buying tickets to football games now, so why not use the opportunity to streamline ticket distribution?

Since we will have to designate if we want a season ticket at preregistration, why can't we get those tickets along with our schedules? The athletic department could distribute the tickets to the season ticket purchasers by seniority.

Starting with the 50-year line tickets, the seats could be divided up among seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, then freshmen. Obviously, this system would eliminate the students who attend all the games from the overnight lines at G. Rollie White.

Single game ticket purchasers could either designate the game(s) they want to see or spend the night in line.

Students should also be given the option of buying a date season ticket at the same time he buys his own season ticket. That way a couple would be guaranteed their two seats together for each game. It would also be nice if the Texas game in Austin were included in the season ticket plan as an option.

Maybe SG and the athletic department could get together and adopt a plan similar to this one. Hopefully they won't ignore it as too convenient to the students at TAMU.

Steve Laskey

Food co-op

Editor:

For the two years that I've been reading the Battalion, this column has appeared to be a battle ground where issues are hashed, mashed, and reheated until some new "atrocious" is cited. What I am saying is that since this paper is read by so many members of this community: students, student government, and administrators, an excellent medium for constructive criticism is being overlooked.

I, for one, would like to see if the new ruling class could work with food service in setting up a food co-op for day students. I personally wouldn't benefit from it since I'm a dorm resident, but for two thirds of the student body, Richard Coke's words about the goal of A&M to provide "... an education while keeping the cost to a minimum" might have meaning.

I would like to see also if a police beat could be established for the main campus. At night, when sound carries well, and sight is practically useless a man on foot could detect

more than two in a petro chariot. Maybe the incident last semester in P.A. 61 could have been prevented.

Until ideas are communicated to the elected officials and administration, all we'll see generated is brick walls and cowhide benches. Therefore, I plead with the student body not to argue issues that can't be reversed, but to be an initiator of policy.

David Grassbaugh

Tradition ousted?

Editor:

Most of us know by now that Student Government has enacted an outrageous policy on football tickets for next season. Instead of traditional seating by class, we are now encouraged to buy season tickets, which would mean a senior has as good a chance of getting an end zone seat as a freshman. Maybe it's not too late to change this, but that is not the point. The price of these season tickets has been raised to \$17.50 without any notification. True, the budget for the Athletic Department was cut and an extra \$7.50 isn't that much. But shouldn't we be told since we're the ones who must pay? Presumably, the first notice we would get would be when we preregister. My assumption is based on the fact that I haven't seen any advertisement of the increase. If I am in error, I would appreciate clarification.

Doug Wright

(Editor's note: The traditional seniority system will remain intact and football season tickets are \$10. See story, page 1.)

Presnal thanked

Editor:

We would like to express our thanks to Mr. Presnal for his explanation of the "improvements" on the Texas A&M campus. Changing the image from a "cow college" to a university, it seems, is the reasoning behind tearing down some of the traditions around campus.

As proud Aggies we disagree! Pride is the basis of any good organization, not appearance. "Beauty is only skin deep." As we all

know, there isn't much we can do to alleviate some of the projects which are in progress, but long after construction is finished and the work crews have gone home, A&M will remain the same old "cow college" in spirit, if nothing else.

Speaking as Aggies, we're damn proud of it!!

J. P. (Pat) Mims and three others

Parents' Day

Editor:

We have just finished reading today's Batt and would like to thank you for your fine coverage of Parents' Day review and especially for the excellent coverage of Parson's Mounted Cavalry's final review.

This lack of coverage of this new A&M tradition makes us wonder about the interests of the Battalion staff.

Nancy Bumpers
Kim Lane

P.S. We also thank you for the fine coverage of the traditional gathering for Muster.

Gays 'sick'

Editor:

I've been going to A&M for four years and I think this "gay awareness" is about the sickest thing I have ever seen here. I'm a non-reg but I am Aggie to the heart and I think this gay stuff should stop before it gets a good chance to start. I am greatly offended by the gays' mention of having students, professors and the Corps among their membership. I don't see how any of us can stand by and let these gays do to A&M what they have already done to us. Even their signs in the Academic Building are of a sick kind of perversion that just mock the rest of us Ags. I believe as students we, the non-regs and the Fightin' Aggie Corps, have a duty to find a way to stop this kind of "psychopathological" behavior before it has a chance to ruin the people and traditions that has made Texas A&M. If you feel as I do, well then, speak up! You are in the overwhelming majority — let your voice be heard if you love A&M!

Tom Crook
Earl Arto

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, INC.
CASUALTY AGENCY
AUTO-HOME-MOBILE HOME-BUSINESS-BOAT
303 College Main 846-8791
College Station

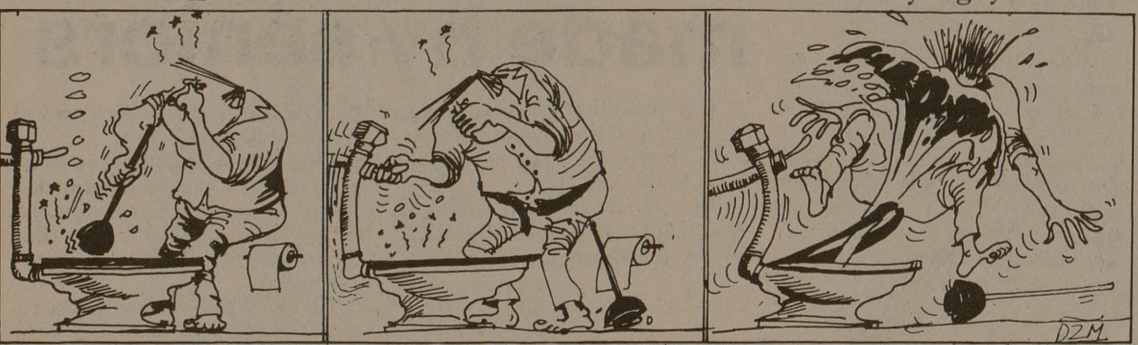
Broome's SUNSHINE LAUNDRY
3815 E. 29th St. — BRYAN, TEXAS 77801
PHONE 846-7921
Open 7 Days Weekly 7-10 Mon.-Fri. 8-8 Sat. 9P
SELF-SERVICE LAUNDRY
COIN-OP DRY CLEANING
PROFESSIONAL CLEANING & LAUNDRY
WASH-DRY-FOLD SERVICE

THE TEJAS TRADING CO.
CORRALES, NEW MEXICO
Proudly Presents
Mary and Frank McDaniel
Due to Popular Demand
A Return Showing
Guaranteed Authentic
Indian Jewelry
50% off MAY 1, 2, 3
1975 ONLY
**707 Texas
846-9626**

Bluebonnet Jewelry by Paula
**Locketts For
Mother's
Day**
Originals
by Paula...
Unique pendants,
bracelets, lockets, necklaces,
pins, earrings, tie tacks, cuff-links
and framed miniatures each
featuring a single stem bluebonnet
fired on fine china.
Available at
The Blue Bonnet Patch
© 1974
816 Villa Maria Rd.
Bryan, Texas 77801 (713) 823-5211 10:00-5:30 Tue.-Sat.

MSC Cafeteria
SWEET SHOP
now featuring
Beautiful, Taste Tempting
CAKES
Made to Order and
Decorated to Suit Your Individual Needs for
BIRTHDAYS WEDDINGS
And Other Special Occasions
Choose a delicious pie or cake from our attractive
display or place an order for your next special occasion
or call
845-1118
"QUALITY FIRST"

KOOZAT



By Nguyen Dziem

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. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

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, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Bob C. Rogers, chairman, Dr. Gary Halter, Dr. John Hanna, Roger P. Miller, Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, Steve Eberhard, Don Hegi and John Nash Jr.

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

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

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.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester, \$9.50 per school year, \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rates 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 this paper and of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor: James Breedlove
Assistant Editor: Rosie Hearn
Managing Editor: Paul McGrath
Sports Editor: Tony Gallucci
City Editor: Steve Gray
Campus Editor: Jerry Geary
Photo Editor: Jack Holm

Reporters: Jim Crawley, Sayeeful Islam, Mike Kimmey, Alan Killingsworth, Don Middleton, Jerry Needham, Nick Voinis, David Walker, John Zimmerman.

Photographers: Kevin Fotorny, Jack Holm, Glen Johnson, Tom Kayser, David McGarroll, Steve McGown, Chris Svatek.
Artists and cartoonists: Dr. James H. Earle, Nguyen Dziem, Brad Foster, Rodney Hammack.

Columnists: Will Anderson, Jerry Geary, Don Middleton, John Vanore

Pizza Inn
AMERICA'S FAVORITE PIZZA
FREE PIZZA
BRING THIS COUPON
FREE Pizza Inn
With this coupon, buy any giant, large or medium pizza at regular price and receive one pizza of the next smaller size with equal number of ingredients FREE! One coupon per visit, please.
VALID THRU THURSDAY MAY 1
Share a pizza today...
PIZZA INN NO. 2
1803 Greenfield Plaza
Next to Bryan High
PIZZA INN No. 1 413 Texas Ave. S.

