

Channels

A bureaucratic maze

Just suppose that last week you had wanted to find out about the athletic user fee proposal before it was actually to go into effect, or that this week you had wanted to find out what the board of directors would discuss at its special meeting in Dallas. You would probably try The Battalion first, right? Well, if you had you wouldn't have gotten any more information than you started with.

It wouldn't have been fair however to blame the paper for not knowing. Information is often lost or hidden in the existing maze of bureaucratic channels. That information which isn't processed through university channels (a special meeting of the board of directors for example) is even harder to find out about. Yet, the point is that these matters concern the student body. They have the right to know what is going on.

The function of this newspaper is precisely that: to let the student body and the community know what is happening in the world around them. If the athletic department re-

ally isn't trying to pull the wool over our eyes and if student government, the administration or any other campus group is sincere in its efforts to act in the best interest in the student body, they must let their actions be known before they actually happen. The best way to do this is to let The Battalion know the facts instead of trying to make us guess and possibly misrepresent the truth.

Ceteris Paribus

Football: fee or free?

By MARK RANKIN
The current controversy surrounding the user fee is destined to be the "civildive bench" of the next few months, but it need not be if the economics of the situation can be isolated from the politics.

against the proposal but one thing is clear, the outcome will mean much more than a gain or loss in revenue. The real question here is whether or not a seat in Kyle Field will continue to be considered a public good and to what extent.

for any student desiring to see a home game. A certain portion of each Student Service Fee is allocated to the Athletic Department, theoretically compensating it for the loss in revenue caused by "giving away" space to activity card holders. It should be obvious that the system as it now exists is somewhat inequitable since those who do not attend any given home game are, in effect, subsidizing those who do. Yet the system exists because it is considered "in the public interest" to allow Aggies "zero priced" tickets.

that portion which would have gone to the Athletic Department). It seems to me that this is the most prudent option since it accomplishes the following: a) it establishes equality for all Aggies since students and former students would now pay the same price and b) it would eliminate many "two percenters" since the more avid fans would be more likely to pay the price and c) it would eliminate the inequity involved when those who do not attend a given game pay for a portion of the ticket of those who do.

The present policy taxes all students in order to provide free space

The problem with the current ticket price controversy is that it is prima facie evidence that the Athletic Department feels a need for more funds. Assuming this is true, the policy-makers must look at the avenues open to them and the implications of each.

The third option, a user fee, would involve characteristics of the first and second options and thus, a compromise.

The user fee system would not accentuate the service fee inequities as would option one and would not involve quite the degree of increased ticket price inherent in option two. Therefore it is less politically distasteful than two and more economically efficient than one.

The ticket price controversy is an important one that should give us some key indications about the changing atmosphere at A&M. When the decision is made, it will more than likely be by the real center of decision-making power on campus, thus exposing the relative strength of the administration and the student government.

Each of these choices would continue the subsidization of student tickets in essentially the same manner as is now the policy.

The second option would be to eliminate the subsidization of student tickets altogether. This would involve charging the same price to students and non-students alike and making the proper adjustments to the Student Service Fee (cutting

Room fees

Tom Bond
Having found some time to look at the proposed room fees for next year, I was curious as to where the money is going. Just figuring the dorm I am living in, Davis-Gary, I will be paying \$235 a semester. Multiplying that by 250 residents, one comes up with \$117,500 per year. My question is, where is this money being spent? The dorm, like many others, is only 40 years old. Surely it has been paid for.

In D-G, very little maintenance has been done. Oh, before Christmas, the corridor walls were scraped where the plaster had peeled, and patched. These walls have yet to be painted and some plaster has fallen off. Several rooms have cultures of mold growing on the ceilings. Also, D-G still has two-faucet sinks.

I would like to see a list of where room money is spent sent to all dorm residents. As in D-G, it's only \$117,500. Also, I would like to see The Batt run a special on residence halls on campus.

Douglas T. Gates

ing, math, biology, parks and recreation and others through their respective students, who give one hell of a fine performance.

I know that there is nothing that I can say or do that will in any way enhance the possibility of the University to retain Dr. Joy, but every student, faculty member, administrator, or board member who fails to see "Godspell," fails himself and the experience of a unique cast-audience rapport that can only come about as a result of an equally unique director.

So, let the wall rise, new buildings tower, and the board meet in splendor, because director John Joy and his cast prove that at TAMU the

theater is alive.

Tom Bond

Listen Up

Loss of Joy 'regretful'

Editor:
After seeing Saturday night's performance of "Godspell," which by the way was nothing less than superior, in respect to the cast and tech crew, I would like to say that I think it is regretful that the University has to forfeit such a fine director as John Joy.

Some have said that new blood is a good thing, and to the point of the production of "Godspell," and other shows done here this season, Joy has without doubt given our theater and the "Aggie Players" the recognition they deserve, through his quality of direction and love for the theater.

In "Godspell" Joy has brought together a large cast; not only is the Department of Theater represented, but accounting, engineer-

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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.

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

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