Channels

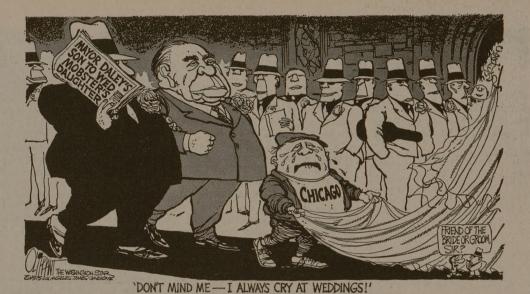
A bureaucratic maze

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

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-

Just suppose that last week you had wanted to find out about the athletic user fee proposal before it 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 more than a gain or loss in revenue. be the "cowhide bench" of the next few months, but it need not be if the not a seat in Kyle Field will continue economics of the situation can be isolated from the politics.

It is unclear at this time who will actually make the decision for or dents in order to provide free space

clear, the outcome will mean much The real question here is whether or to be considered a public good and to what extent.

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. The situation is much like a municipal park built with tax revenue and

and thus a public good.

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 im-

available to all citizens yet only

utilized by a small percentage. The park is considered for the good of all

plications of each. The first option would concern a solution tied to the existing method of funding, the Student Service Fee and the non-student ticket price. If it is desirable to maintain student tickets as public goods, the increased revenue will have to come from: a) an increase in the price of non-student tickets, b) an increase in the percentage of the Student Service Fees going to the program or c) a sur-tax on the present Student Service Fee, the proceeds going to the Athletic Department.

Each of these choices would continue the subsidization of student the ceilings. Also, D-G still has 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

however, will be finding whether traditional public goods such as free Batt seeks reporters

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football tickets will continue, or, in effect, who pays for the Twelfth

OVERSEAS

that portion which would have gone

It seems to me that this is the

most prudent option since it accom-

plishes the following: a) it estab-

lishes equality for all Aggies since

students and former students would

now pay the same price and b) it

would eliminate many "two percen-

ters" 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 at-

tend a given game pay for a portion of the ticket of those who do.

Although this option is undoubtedly politically distasteful it is

economically efficient whereas the

first option is politically blissful and

The third option, a user fee, would involve characteristics of the

first and second options and thus, a

The user fee system would not

accentuate the service fee ine-

quities as would option one and

would not involve quite the degree

of increased ticket price inherent in

option two. Therefore it is less polit-

ically distasteful than two and more

economically efficient than one.

The Athletic Department would

continue to collect a portion of the

Student Service Fee but any funds

needed above that amount would

come from those who actually go to

the games.

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. We will

also have some indication of the re-

lative importance of political suitability and economical efficiency in

the decision-making process. Of

more considerable importance,

economically impotent.

compromise

to the Athletic Department).

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"QUALITY FIRST"

Loss of Joy 'regretful'

Editor:

After seeing Saturday night's per-formance 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 Jov. 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-

EVENING RINGS

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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 castaudience 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

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Room fees

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 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

he Battalion

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

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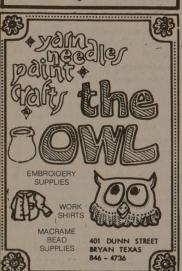
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