

Ticket policy: our error

By ROXIE HEARN
Assistant Editor

A couple of weeks ago, The Battalion started a new Ombudsman reader service. As "ombudsman" I field questions, complaints or comments about the service of the newspaper.

This column will be a discussion of some of the calls I receive throughout the week.

The majority of the calls have come from students who dislike the new ticket distribution system.

At least three of them objected to a statement made in the Sept. 25 issue of The Battalion in an article entitled "Senate alters ticket distribution . . . again."

Our writer stated that the altering proposal included a recommendation that students taking non-student dates be restricted to either endzone or track seats. This statement was incorrect. The proposal did not include such a recommenda-

tion. There were two schools of thought within the committee drawing up the proposals. A minority of the group felt the above recommendation would be best. That way, all season ticket holders would be assured of a good seat: they wouldn't be bumped around to the endzone because of an abundance of non-student dates in the mid-section.

However, the majority of the group felt additional seating, either bleacher or track should be opened up if regular seating ran short. Their recommendation did not include any restrictions on non-student dates.

It was this latter recommendation that should have been recorded in the story. For further muddling the distribution issue, we apologize.

Another complaint repeated several times was parking. Lot 7, I was told, had many more staff spaces

then it had staff to fill them. When we looked into this, we found that there were between 65 and 70 spaces that could be returned to student use. The situation was corrected by campus police.

I also get a number of calls on our coverage of campus groups.

The most recent of these complaints came from a professor in the Aerospace Engineering Department. He felt our statement calling the Texas A&M job-placement service "The best kept secret on campus" was incorrect.

"Actually," he wrote, "the best kept secret, as far as your paper is concerned, is how well Aerospace Engineering students have distinguished themselves in nationwide design contests."

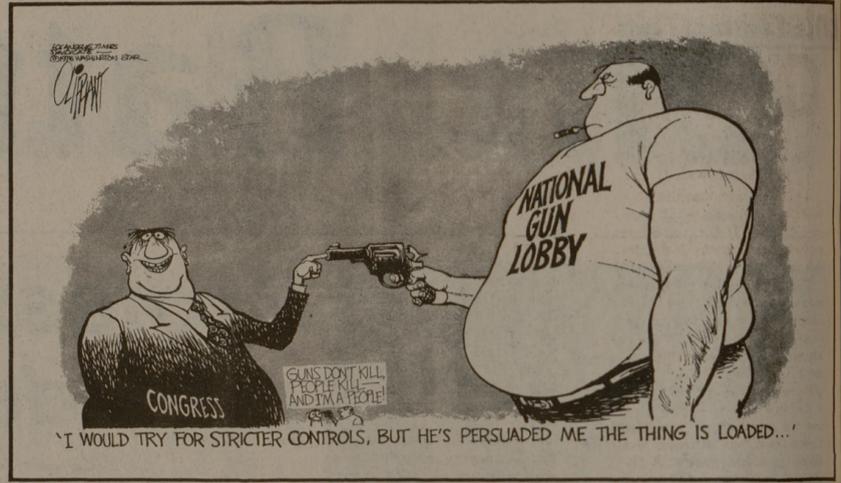
This is an age-old problem: which organizations and which press releases will get coverage. We don't maliciously neglect clubs and organizations, there are just too many

to give them all coverage.

Each night we receive at least 60 news releases about newsworthy campus events. We're limited by space and can include only those items that we feel affect the most students or generate the most interest.

No doubt the Irving Home Town Club is important, but its meetings just don't have the far-reaching effects that Board of Regents' meetings do.

If you have any questions, complaints or comments, call 845-2611 between 6 and 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or write "Ombudsman," 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University.



—Brad Foster

More on tickets

Non-students complain

Editor:

We are protesting the recommendation in the Date Ticket Resolution which restricts the seating of students with nonstudent dates to the track and bleacher seats or to the Kyle Field horseshoe. We do not know how many members of the senate are married, but they should realize that this recommendation discriminates against the student whose husband or wife does not attend classes at A&M. This penalizes the student for being married and not having the option to choose a student for the "date."

We have no objection to the resolution concerning odd tickets or to the Group Tickets Resolution but do believe that the recommendation concerning the seating of non-student dates alters basic tenets of this ticket system sufficiently to warrant, upon request, a full refund

for the unused portion of a student's season ticket book if this resolution is passed.

Phil Pearson
Peggy Pearson

This and the following letter are two of many we have received concerning football ticket distribution. Much of the problem is because of an incorrect statement made by The Battalion. For an explanation, see the above "Ombudsman" column. — Ed.

Editor:

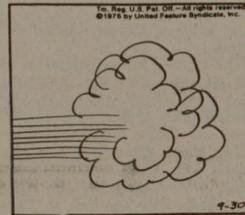
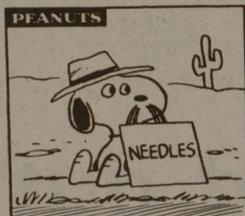
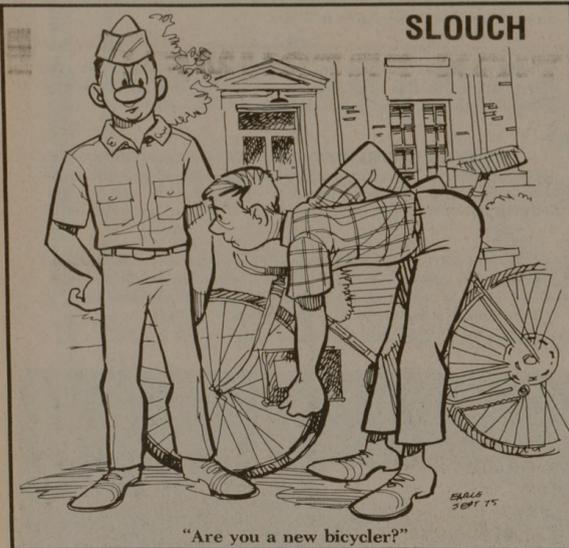
For years the 12th man has been the backbone of A&M. Now that the A&M are winners, former students (of the fair weather variety) are crawling out of the woodwork. This is fine, except the students are the ones who have to suck it up. I started out in the horseshoe four years ago, and I don't particularly want to finish this year in the same

place.

I am married and have attended A&M with very few complaints. But to think that my wife and I might have to sit in the horseshoe because she is a nurse and is thus a non-student date, is too much to handle.

Danny Eastman

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A JUST PEACE FOR THE PALESTINIANS



In the current efforts to pacify the long-lasting conflict in the Middle-East your government is playing a central role. There is a serious danger, however, that pacification could only generate peace if the rights and needs of the Palestinian people are fully considered. At stake is the very principle of self-determination on which your country's independence is historically based. The injustice done to the Palestinian people is at the root of the conflict. A necessary step to achieve a just peace in the Middle-East is the realization that the continued banishment of the Palestinian people from their homeland is detrimental to the United States and to the cause of world peace. The just struggle of the Palestinian people will most certainly continue until the creation of a secular democratic state in the whole of Palestine is achieved.

Organization of Arab Students in the U.S.A. & Canada. Texas A&M Chapter.

The Battalion

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