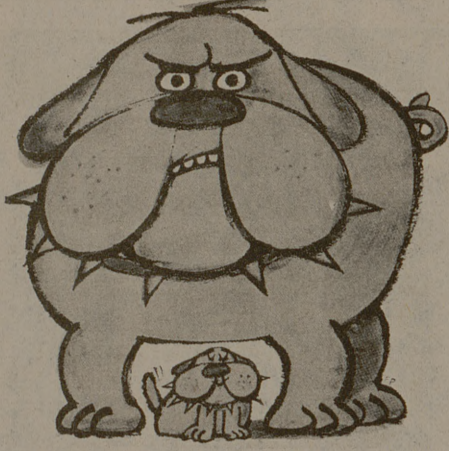


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When would you prefer to leave?

- A. Mid May
- B. After June 1
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How many days would you prefer to be gone?

- A. 14-21 days
- B. 21-28 days
- C. All summer
- D. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer:

- A. Air only (\$400-500)
- B. Package plan (\$500 plus). How and how much willing to spend?
- C. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which European port of entry do you prefer?

- A. London (cheapest)
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- C. Rome
- D. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Cheapest most feasible route: May 25-Aug. 26, air only, to London. Need immediate response.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE MSC TRAVEL COMMITTEE, MSC STUDENT PROGRAMS, ROOM 216, MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER, OR CALL 845-1515.



## Editorial

### Double-edged sword

College Station voters will have the opportunity in early April to decide which system they will use in electing future city officials.

For the past eight years voters have been electing their mayors and councilmen through an at-large system. But in those eight years the city's population and physical size has swelled to the point where the at-large system no longer really allows the city fathers to represent their individual constituents.

Two alternate proposals, which probably will appear on the April 3 ballot, would allow voters to elect at least three of the six councilmen from individual wards or districts. A complete ward system would have six wards, each represented by one councilman, with the mayor being elected at large. A combination ward and at-large system would involve electing three councilmen by wards and the other three, plus the mayor, at large.

Opponents of the ward system, which existed in College Station 1952 until 1968, when it was abolished, say such a system would serve only the interests of minorities in the area. Since ethnic and racial minorities are not heavily concentrated in any particular part of the city, the ward system would not effectively represent minority interests.

Councilman Homer Adams, an ardent supporter of the ward system, contends it would prevent special interest groups, such as students, from filling a majority of the council positions.

It's like a two-edged sword; but who do you think holds the hilt?

Five of the seven council seats, including the mayor's, are up for grabs this year. Theoretically, under the present at-large system, students could fill those five seats. But, considering the past student voter turnouts which are nothing to crow about, a takeover isn't likely.

In past years, few qualified students have run for city council positions. This year, with city elections only five weeks away, it's a good bet that Student Government won't be able to find even one candidate.

As of November only a little more than 3,000 A&M students were registered voters. That leaves about 19,000 students who are qualified to register but haven't and who apparently are not too concerned about city politics. That doesn't include those who are registered but are too lazy to get off of their dudds and go to the polls.

What is needed then is an election system that is both equitable and representative of the local electorate.

A combination ward and at-large system of election would satisfy these requirements. Such a system would not become obsolete as the city enlarges. This combination would allow for overall representation yet preserve individual representation by councilmen within geographically-designated wards, including the campus.

And, yes, the students could conceivably fill five of the council's seats. But Homer Adams really has nothing to worry about, does he?

S. C. G.



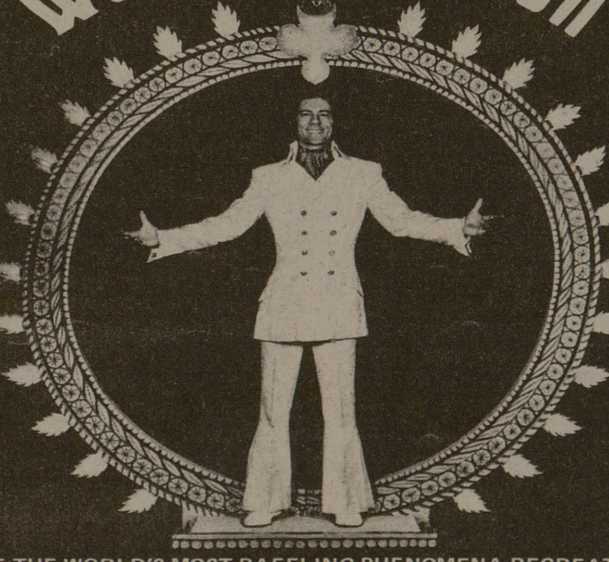
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## Ticket appeals useless

Editor:

I am very dissatisfied with the A&M Traffic Appeals Panel.

From my own experience with the panel, I can see that appealing a traffic ticket is rather useless. The procedure is routine, with the student appearing before the panel to explain why he feels the ticket is unjust.

In my case, I explained that the USDA signs, located just behind the USDA building needed improvement because:

• The signs are not color coded like most of the parking signs here at A&M are.

### Listen Up

• The lettering is small and is not as recognizable as the color coded sign adjacent to it.

Close cut case, right? Where was Perry Mason when I needed him most? Maybe he would have had a chance. Well, I alone felt that my reasons were justifiable enough to have the ticket revoked.

Instead, I was informed that the ticket was in fact valid and that if I

wanted the sign changed, I have to go to the University Traffic Panel.

So, being \$5 poorer and advised where to go, I accept fate and went before the University Traffic Panel.

But before I release the results of this consultation, I would like some advice to the Traffic Panel. My advice to them is:

• Reduce the number of tickets on the panel, thereby allowing student to be heard and better understood.

• The panel should have the authority to reduce the amount of the ticket, justice would prevail on both pocketbooks.

• The panel should provide student with the names of each member. (After walking out of appeal, I realized that they all had my name while I knew nothing who or what makes up the panel.)

• Finally, the panel should provide some way to make the person like he tried his best. That a student should walk out of the panel with a sense of respect.

As for the results of my consultation with the University Traffic Panel, I was informed that they would be improved. And I left out with a sense of respect.

Painfully taking a positive thing, I figure I paid \$5 for advice how to get a sign changed. Maybe just maybe, my money wasn't lost after all. Has yours been?

R. H.

Rudy Escamilla

## Kiddie — cops

Citizen's band radio operators and campus vigilantes became too much for the University to handle this year, so officials came up with a solution: organization.

The campus police have formed a student club called the Auxiliary Force of Texas A&M University. According to its constitution, it will have the responsibility of assisting the police with crowd and traffic control, assisting visitors, and reporting vandalism, theft and other criminal activity on campus.

There is no guarantee that the kiddie-cops won't get carried away with their duties and caught up in their own importance.

Their enthusiasm could get the better of them and they could soon be reporting couples necking in parked cars, drivers exceeding the campus speed limit and friends sharing a joint.

Give the cops a lot of credit, though. What better way could there be to control the masses than to have students report on their peers, eh comrade?

R. H.

## Parking

Editor:

Parking in our apartment complex is becoming quite a problem. In the Casa Del Sol Apartments, we are only two blocks from campus. During the day, students who do not occupy our complex spaces allotted to us. Needless to say, this leaves me and others with no place to park.

That is not the least of our problems, though. The lack of parking spaces tempts many people to illegally park at the intersections of Ney and Cross and of Nagle and Cross. This means parking up and around corners clearly marked with no parking signs. When happens, the view is obstructed. It is necessary to get in the middle of the intersection before one can see the way is clear.

Three weeks ago a friend of mine from out of town was at the intersection of Stanes and Cross and she was trying to see if any cars were coming, an oncoming car ran into her car. Just last week there was a wreck at the intersection of Cross and Nagle when the same thing happened. More than once while I lived back to my apartment, I have avoided a wreck when a car did see me because of cars parked on the curb and almost into the intersection. I will let those facts speak for themselves.

If more spaces on campus were opened for student parking, perhaps we would not have these dangerous and annoying problems.

Patricia Duhon

## The Battalion

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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.

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

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