

Incident amusing, irritating Parking on campus frustrating

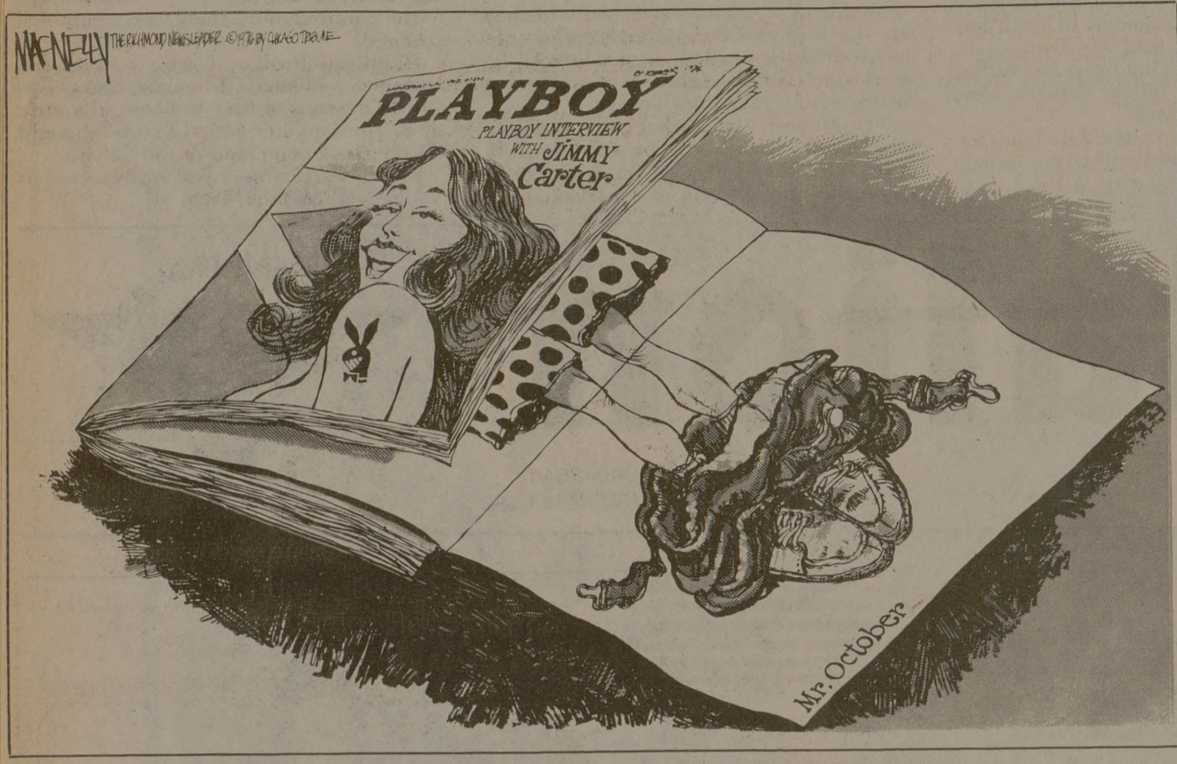
Editor:
On Wednesday, Sept. 22, about 10 people in the lobby of the Cyclotron Institute building observed an amusing but irritating incident take place in the parking lot.

Two campus policemen were in the process of ticketing cars illegally parked in staff spaces in Lot 5. As one

Listen Up

of the policemen was completing a ticket, the driver of the car, a shapely young blonde, arrived on the scene. It appeared that she began to explain the grievous circumstances which

had caused her to park illegally. Her argument must have been persuasive, because the officer folded up the ticket and put it in his pocket. It is interesting to speculate on the outcome of the same incident had the driver of the car been unattractive or, even better (or worse), male.
— Mike Hughes



By CHARLENE ADAMS

Yesterday I appeared before the Traffic Appeals Panel in the MSC presumably to "appeal" what I considered to be an unjust ticket. However, I was informed by Mr. Larry D. Pollock, Area Co-ordinator for Student Affairs, that it was not the duty of the Panel to decide the "justness" of a ticket, only the ticket's "validity." In view of these Merriam-Webster definitions:

appeal: To call upon another to decide a question or vindicate one's rights.
just: Righteous or equitable in action or judgment; impartial, or legally right.

valid: Founded on truth or fact; capable of being justified; having legal strength or force. I quickly realized the futility of arguing my case. Instead, I amused myself with a philosophical discussion with Mr. Pollock concerning the University's practice of issuing more parking permits than spaces available.

Selling more parking permits than available spaces is a fraudulent practice and a felony by law, right? WRONG! Good of TAMU is technically covered by paragraph 5, page 1 of the Texas A&M University Vehicle Regulations which states:

"The registration of all vehicles operated on the campus, except visitors' vehicles, is required but registration in itself is no guarantee of a parking space near the place where one works, resides or attends class."

TAMU is also covered in practice because the unsuspecting students buy their parking permits in good faith and do not even get copies of the Texas A&M University Vehicle Regulations until after they have purchased the permits!

I have carefully presented this background information to explain the following, Mr. Pollock told me, and I quote: "The University Regulations are perfectly clear on this one important point. You do not purchase parking permits; you pay reg-

istration fees. All this 'registration fee' entitles you to do is operate a motor vehicle on campus, according to the University Regulations."

And the University Regulations booklet is the highest authority in such matters, is it not? That is what the University Police say and should they not know? They are the ones who issue the tickets for the violation thereof.

Therefore, although this might shock you all, no one has a parking permit, according to the University Regulations.

Therefore, although this might shock not only Mr. Pollock but also

their offense, but what are the chances that the originally ticketed offenders would ever all be finally caught? They could not simply mail the tickets to the offenders, because the offenders must be caught in the act, signified by the actual ticketing of their vehicles on the date and at the time of their offense! In other words, all they can do is catch you removing the tickets from the cars!

I am certain that the powers that be would never uphold the practice selling nothing for \$36.00 a year. And surely they have more courage than to hide behind their own special "Catch-22."

The University's practice of selling more permits than spaces available is a common one and is logical since all of the cars with permits will never be on campus at any one time.

But it could be that the University has overextended itself in this practice.

Howard Perry, associate vice

president for student services, at this morning that "we have not at this point put a limit on the number of permits issued. There is space available for everyone. Granted, they're not the most convenient spaces. Most of them are in the periphery lots -- like the two in the across Wellborn Road and the behind Kyle Field."

Even though the parking situation is frustrating, and the University seems to be dragging its feet in solving the problem, I must point out that your suggestion about moving parking tickets from cars in violation of the law and was probably only impede progress in solving the problem.

Perry said some minor adjustments will be made next week so that the Traffic Panel will meet Oct. 6 to make some recommendations on boundary adjustments to Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services.

Readers' forum

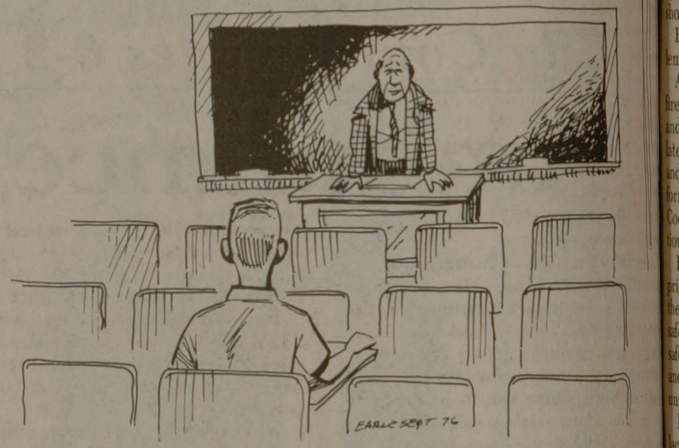
the University Police, every single ticket issued by the respected and venerated University Police is legally null and void because it states in plain print "A&M permit, 'current A&M permit, and 'loss of permit. But what kind of permit? Answer that question with another question. What were you doing when you got the ticket? Right! Parking! If this is not enough, just look at the "registration fee" stickers on your windshields, where they say in bold, black print "PARKING PERMIT. I rest my case."

In this bicentennial year of homage to our forefathers who made this country a country and not just a British colony through their rebellion, wouldn't it be fitting for the TAMU student body to cast aside their indifference and lethargy by showing their dissatisfaction with the absurd and frustrating parking situation by, say, removing every parking ticket they can get their hands on and mailing them to the University Police?

What would this accomplish? Hopefully it would cause frustration for the University Police comparable to that which they are causing us. What could they do about it? They could reissue new tickets, assuming that the same offenders repeated

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"Before we begin, are you sure you don't have a sick grandmother, a dental appointment, a ride leaving early, or a death in your family?"

The Battalion

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

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

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 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.

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Bikers, walkers battle for space

A&M has become the battleground between bicyclists and pedestrians this year. Every hour on MWF days and every hour and a half on T days, you can see the faces of the warriors.

You can look into the glassy-eyed homicidal stares of the speed maniacs on two wheels.

You can hear the curses from pedestrians thrown at the backs of disappearing bikers.

There is a problem here.

Chief Luther of Campus Security made a conservative estimate of 10,000 bicycles on campus. Since there are only 28,000 students, more than a third are on wheels.

Not only is the campus becoming too crowded to handle 18,000 pedestrians and 10,000 bicyclists at one time; but no one is courteous enough to make it work.

Pedestrians saunter down the middle of the sidewalk dreaming about their own little world. When they hear the whirr of an approaching bike, they shift first one direction, then the other. Trying to second-guess pedestrians is like playing Russian Roulette with a loaded revolver.

Or if they aren't drifting alone

Steve Reis



and the latter are worried like hell about their new boots.

In crowded areas, between classes, both walkers and bikers see who can be more inconsiderate. Those who wheels steer their vehicles of down into solid walls of flesh, hoping for an opening instead of dismounting and walking their bikes.

Those on feet mill aimlessly about blocking the walkway for other walkers as well as bikers.

But night is the real horror. Out of the blackness, silent speedsters come without warning and without headlights. If the chance to meet a pedestrian, the walker will be sidwiped before he realizes he's been attacked.

And not only walkers consider those on two wheels; car drivers do also. Stop signs, one-way street signs, yield signs and sidewalk mean nothing to bikers. After all, they own the campus.

They make left turns in front of cars and other bikers as well, and thieves, there is no honor among bicyclists.

What to do. Should bike tires be slashed and handlebars bent? Should the campus cops patrol the university looking for flagrant violations of human rights? Should pedestrians be banned from campus?

Maybe consideration is the last. Then again, maybe if there is an all-out war, the better man will win. Survival of the fittest and all that.

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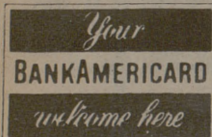
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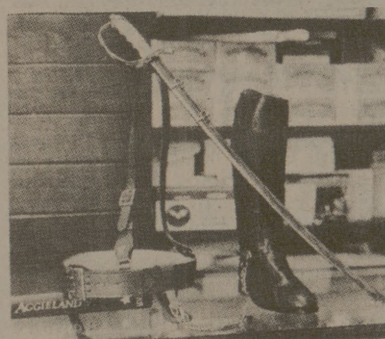
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