

**OPINION**

# Valuable choice or space filler?

Gov. Mark White appointed San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, to the Texas A&M Board of Regents June 13. White made a wise selection. Cisneros, an A&M graduate, was a finalist in the selection of Walter Mondale's vice presidential candidate. He is certainly qualified for the position. His many credentials include membership on the President's Federation Council, the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America as well as second vice president of the Texas Municipal League.

At 37, Cisneros is a welcome addition to the aging board. However, the appointment of someone with so many irons in the fire raises some questions as to the effectiveness of a regent with such an array of responsibilities. Cisneros, who was on a business trip in South Korea when appointed, may not have enough time to devote to his regency.

While The Battalion Editorial Board is pleased with the selection of the accomplished Cisneros, we hope that he will prove to be a valuable asset to the Board of Regents and not merely occupy a seat at the table.

The Battalion Editorial Board

# Mail Call



**Letters Policy**

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

## Professor picked bad time to visit police

EDITOR:

Apparently, Dr. Marsh, you had a reason to visit our department at a time when students were waiting in lines to obtain summer parking permits. At times these lines extended beyond our front door. That fact alone might have indicated a "wait" was in store for all.

The young ladies working behind the counter are all students. Their sole function is:

- To issue a permit upon proof of payment.

- To notify a prospective purchaser that a permit cannot be sold because of outstanding unpaid violation notices.

Signs, as well as designated employees, inform all patrons to enter one line or the other — depending upon whether they recalled having outstanding tickets.

Many, unfortunately, learned they had unpaid tickets and were then advised they must enter the other line to first resolve those.

I am unable to determine what problem you encountered from the minimal evidence you offered in your first paragraph.

You did acknowledge that the young ladies were courteous, which I find a bit paradoxical to the comments made in the remainder of your letter. However, you did use the expression "get cleared so I could purchase a duplicate sticker." This was the example you used in reference to "Bureaucratic double talk."

To me it would appear that the young ladies discovered the vehicle (for which you were seeking to obtain a duplicate permit) had one or more unpaid violation notices as a previously unregistered car.

You would have then been refused a "duplicate" until you resolved the unpaid notices — which would have required you to enter the other line.

Obviously, you elected not to do so or, as some faculty/staff members have loudly vocalized, insisted you go to the front of the line ahead of the students, which is not permitted.

You did not give me or my full-time staff the opportunity of addressing whatever problem you encountered, thus my rather lengthy surmise now.

In case you have encountered any other difficulties (other than the timing of your arrival during the influx of summer students), I will now address the rest of that verbiage which followed in your letter and your desire to share these feelings with the those to whom you sent copies.

Perhaps you intended to lend cre-

dence to the "horror stories" you and some faculty members relate to one another. Again, without the benefit of specifics, I must conjecture that these stories are the result of our policy concerning parking violators as opposed to the myriad other duties we have responsibility for.

That policy is "parity for all" in our enforcement efforts.

Since I have assumed my position, faculty/staff are being held responsible for their violations and not just the students.

I am aware of the outrage this has caused some distinguished members of the faculty/staff when informed they, too, must pay for their violations.

They then perceive that we are "rude, indifferent, despised, pitiful, KGB" (all your words).

Your protestation of "I do not want special treatment" belies why you then proceeded to list your impressive credentials.

I welcome you, or any of your colleagues, to contact me, seven days a week. I will then be given the opportunity to resolve your problems.

You will be treated courteously (as you have experienced) but your credentials will not intimidate us to extend you special privilege.

**Robert E. Wiatt**  
Director of Security and Traffic

## Students lose battle to the legislature

EDITOR:

Proud are the Texas state legislators of their most recent rape of the citizenry, hallowing their dubious accomplishment this past session as "social reform."

What, in fact, did they accomplish?

They managed to raise every imaginable fee — lauding their own efforts at evading a tax increase, while squeezing every cent they could from our pockets.

They paid the usual deference to the corporate taxpayers of the state, those lurking beasts of freedom which contribute so generously to their election campaigns.

And we should be thankful that the blue law was appealed, so to increase sales to a higher level — thereby bringing more money into the state coffers by way of sales tax.

Finally, we students should be proud to anticipate the fall tuition increase, eager to make our hefty contribution.

It was a tough battle but, after insufferable roundabouts, punctuated so nicely by Gov. White's promise to repeal any college tuition increase, we lost.

**William H. Clark**



# Is \$1.22 for E3VLPBUT=X reasonable price to pay?

By ART BUCHWALD

Columnist for The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

I came into the office and found my assistant, Cathy, crying.

"What's wrong?"  
"I've been trying to get the phone company for two days to move the telephone two and a half blocks to our new offices."

"So what's the big deal?"  
"I finally succeeded. Do you want to hear the rest of it? AT&T will come in to disconnect the phones and reconnect them for \$90 for the first hour and \$1 for each MINUTE after."

"You're kidding me. Not even lawyers have the nerve to charge by the minute."

She said, "That's not all of it. AT&T no longer has anything to do with installing the dial tone. The tone can only be created by the C&P Telephone Company. They charge \$94 for a one-time connection fee, plus \$35 for the FIRST 15 MINUTES and \$11 for for each additional quarter hour. There is also a \$3 fee for the cost of the jack in the closet."

"Let me get this straight," I said. "AT&T is socking us for the connection and the C&P people are mugging us for the dial tone. Did you ask either company how we can be sure they don't waste a minute while they're doing all this?"

"They said we should trust them."  
"Okay, so they are behaving like the Mafia. Is that any reason to cry?"

"I'm not finished. If we want to keep the same number we have to pay extra for that too. They want \$9.55 per line per month, which they call a 'mileage' charge. In case you're interested, they charge \$8.20 for the first quarter mile and 45 cents for each additional quarter mile."

"That's more than a New York taxi charges," I said. "Where do they find people to come up with these numbers?"

"I just got our phone bills for the month. We used to get one bill, now we get two — one from AT&T for our equipment and one from C&P for their service. Here, look at this. Everything is

in computer code. Do you know what product E3VLPBUT=X, description: BUT-SIGNAL, Unit price \$1.22, total amount \$26.36 is?"

"Not right off hand," I admitted.

"It's our button signal," Cathy said. "AT&T charges us to let our phone ring and button light up. They've made a price increase retroactive from July of 1984, but so many people have complained about it that if you holler loud enough they'll take it off your bill."

"There, you see?" I said. "The phone company does have a heart."

"Then there is the \$2.62 monthly charge for an intercom line."

"That sounds reasonable."  
"It is except we don't have an intercom line. They're also charging us \$1.66 for the buzzer for the intercom line we don't have."

"The phone company would never cheat us. Call them and tell them they made a mistake."

Cathy turned red. "I'm not going to try to get through again. No one can get through to them because everybody is complaining about their telephone bills."

"What's this charge of \$7.56 for a PICKUP BUTTON?"

"As far as I know," she replied, "it's this plastic button on the phone. I'm not sure if they're charging us for the button itself or the connection when we push it in. But whatever it is, AT&T has made it retroactive."

"This is more serious than I thought," I said. "Take a letter to Judge Harold H. Greene, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, One John Marshall Place, Washington, D.C. 20001. Dear Judge Greene, since you were responsible for the breakup of the phone company, the greatest and cheapest system in the free world, I am writing to you for guidance. You have maintained the divestiture would encourage competition and save the consumer money. Pray tell, dear Judge, what exactly did you have in mind? Since no sane jurist would be stupid enough to tear apart something that was working so well, I'm sure you have a secret plan. You at least

owe it to the American people to let us know how we're benefiting from your historic decision. If you don't tell us before we get our next phone bill I'm going to print your home number in the paper. Respectfully yours, An Admirer."

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