

Students find matching names create confusing experiences

By Kelley Bullock
Reporter

"When I was a freshman here at A&M, this guy gave me a call," says senior industrial engineering major Stephen Bruce Kelly, one of three Stephen Kellys at Texas A&M.

"I need to talk to you about my son," the man said. "I really think that you need to move his position."

"What?" Kelly, 22, asked.

"I think you should move him to shortstop," the man answered.

"I don't know what you're talking about," Kelly, of Spring, said.

"You are Steve Kelly, the P.E. major?" he asked.

"Yes," Kelly, who thought the man said Pet. E. (petroleum engineering), said. Kelly was a petroleum engineering major at the time.

"OK, good," the man said. "It's really a positive experience for my son, but I really think you need to move him to a different position, because I think it would be better for everybody."

Ten minutes went by as they talked in circles, confused and unaware of the mistaken identity.

"Did you say P.E. or Pet.E.?" asked Kelly, who finally realized something was wrong.

"P.E.," the man answered. "You don't work at the church as a coach?"

"No!" Kelly said.

Kelly is one of the many students at A&M who has the same first and last name as somebody else.

"I thought it was funny, but he was more frustrated that he had spent that much time talking to me on the phone," Kelly says.

Many times identical names lead to problems and confusion.

Kimberly Lynn Cajacob, a freshman elementary education major, is one of two Kimberly Cajacob's at A&M.

She received the wrong midterm grades.

"I went to get my midterms last semester," Cajacob says. "They gave me Kimberly Ann Cajacob's, and I didn't realize it. I went all the way home and looked at it, and I had over 130 hours. I didn't know how I got that many — I'm a freshman. I didn't know what was going on. I read it. It said Kimberly Cajacob. I didn't look real close. Finally, after a

long time, I figured it out. I looked at the middle name, and it said Ann.

"So then I had to go all the way back to the Pavilion and tell them they gave me the wrong one."

Both Cajacob's were born in Omaha, Neb., but are not closely related.

Since their name is so unusual, they have crossed each other's paths before.

"One time I was at the pool a couple of years ago," senior elementary education major Kimberly Ann Cajacob says. "Someone asked me if I swam in Houston. They were talking about the other Kim."

"It's a weird feeling, especially when it's such a weird name. But it's fun — I like to tell other people about it."

Kimberly Lynn Cajacob agrees that it's strange to have the same uncommon name.

"I think I've got about the strangest name around," Cajacob (freshman) says. "I think it's really strange that someone else would have the same name."

Curious about the other girl named Kim Cajacob, Kimberly Ann Cajacob called Kimberly Lynn Cajacob to talk to her.

"The thing I thought was funny was when we were talking about our nicknames on the phone," Cajacob (freshman) says. "We have had the same nicknames. One was funny — 'Cucumber.' It doesn't really sound like Cajacob, but we both used to be called 'Cucumber.'"

Having the same name is not always fun, such as when Kelly was mistakenly given credit for having taken defensive driving.

"I don't know if it was a mistake because of my name or not, but at College Station they put me down for taking defensive driving for a ticket I paid," Kelly says. "I had to go down there and write letters to them, to Austin and to the courthouse. I still don't know if it's officially straightened out."

Another problem is cashing

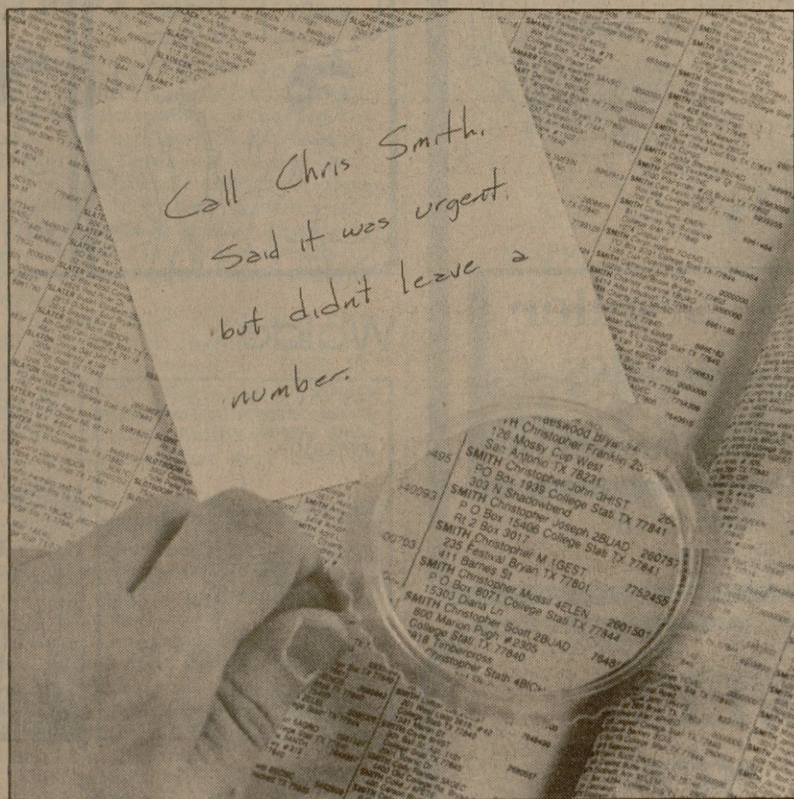


Photo Illustration by Dean Saito

checks, especially when another person with the same name is on the bad-check list.

"I think I need to start signing my middle name with a 'B,' because on my checks I just have Stephen Kelly," Kelly says. Freshman general-studies major Stephen Glenn Kelly, another one of the three Stephen Kellys, agrees.

However, having the same name often brings people together, freshman English major Stacey Lynn Allen says.

"I've met two Stacey Allens," Allen, one of at least four Stacey Allens at A&M, says. "One of them I met at Fish Camp. Her name was Stacey E. Allen and I'm Stacey L. Allen. They got us mixed up."

"I've met another Stacey Allen who is a junior now. I met her at a party. I'm a fish aide in Student Gov-

ernment, and she was a fish aide when she was a freshman.

"A lot of people asked why Stacey Allen was on the fish aide list. They said, 'She's not a freshman; she's a junior now.' I said, 'I'm Stacey Allen; I'm a freshman.'"

Allen's friends have had problems getting her phone number from student locator.

"I've had people say, 'I called student locator, and I couldn't get your number because there were so many Stacey Allens,'" she says.

"Also, I applied for Fish Camp counselor. The night before we were supposed to find out who got it, a panic gripped me. I thought, 'What if I go in there, and the list says Stacey Allen.' I would think I got it and get my hopes all up. Then I would find out that it was somebody else."

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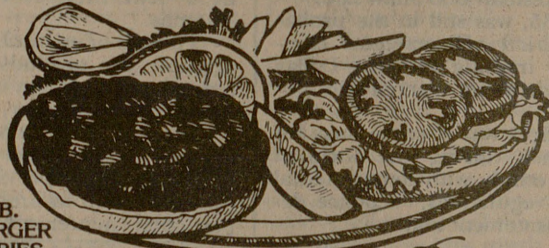
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