

Police not part of parking problem

The University Police Department has been unjustly accused — unjustly accused of issuing too many parking tickets.

As a matter of fact, (all you angry letter writers out there better sit down for this one) the UPD no longer issues parking tickets.

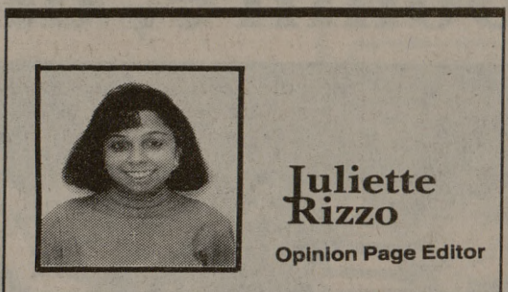
Yes, you heard right. As of May 1, the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services assumed responsibility for all parking-related matters, including parking administration (the sale of parking permits and collection of fines), bus operations and traffic planning.

The Department, created in the summer of 1988, was established to alleviate some of the parking problems (namely the lack of parking) on campus. The additional task of issuing parking tickets was given to the Department after an almost two year operational review of the UPD revealed that parking administration should not overlap with law enforcement.

I agree wholeheartedly. The University Police has better things to do. Isn't saving lives and protecting property a little more important than standing in a parking lot, pen in hand, waiting to scrawl the license plate numbers of repeat parking offenders?

Bob Wiatt, director of security and the University Police, said the UPD would rather not overlook the primary duties of a police force for duties that have, in the past, been called somewhat demeaning. He said the UPD can now concentrate more on crime prevention on campus.

But the UPD may not get the chance to focus on anything else if the calls about parking tickets don't stop coming in. The idea of separating the two de-



Juliette Rizzo
Opinion Page Editor

partments will work out nicely only if more people, especially students, realize the two departments are separate.

Although actual ticketing was passed on to the Department in May, the Department was still housed in the same building as the UPD, thus causing utter confusion for many.

To clear matters up and direct those concerned with parking to the correct office, the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services is located in the Southwest Savings Building on University Drive. The office handles the allocation of parking spaces, ticket appeals and traffic complaints involving routing and flow problems. Tickets can be paid at the office or dropped off in a drop box in the main lobby of Rudder Tower.

The UPD, on the other hand, is still in the same old place, on the southwest corner of campus. All issues involving University law enforcement and Texas law enforcement should still be directed there, including reports of car accidents on campus.

And as far as the availability of parking on campus goes, the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services is working on it. Literally.

Juliette Rizzo is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor of The Battalion.

Granny Grizzard — a good gal

A relative sent along a very special package to me. It is a large black-and-white photograph taken at my paternal grandmother's 65th birthday.

Granny Grizzard had 12 children. Eight are with her in the photograph. What a tiny woman she was. And that smile. I wish I had known it in life.

Granny Grizzard died in 1945 — a year before I was born. I've been told that the one thing she longed for in her last months was for her baby boy, my father, to return home from World War II.

She got her wish.

One of my aunts told me, "Mama was such a gentle person. She was soft and kind and hardly ever raised her voice above a whisper."

"And she spoiled her boys. And they loved her so much. When one of them came to visit her you couldn't believe how she'd light up."

"And your daddy. He was her precious baby. She didn't let him have a haircut until he was 12. He had long blond curls, and it nearly broke mama's heart to see them go."

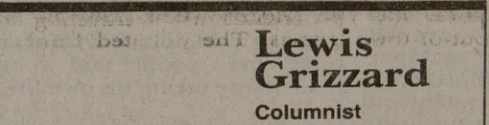
What a special relationship there is between a grandparent and a grandchild.

Grandparents seem to have a little more time to listen and to answer a million questions that begin with the word "Why."

My maternal grandmother had a lot to do with my raising. After my parents divorced when I was 6, I went to live at my grandmother's house.

Mama Willie was soft and kind and gentle, too. A child suddenly removed from one of his or her parents is confused, maybe even a little bitter and in a great deal of pain.

Mama Willie must have rocked me a thousand miles in her rocking chair, re-



Lewis Grizzard
Columnist

assuring me constantly, "Everything is going to be all right."

Contrary to what some may think, I do have certain disciples, and Mama Willie sculpted many of them. When she died it hurt.

But there's also a certain pain in not having known a grandparent. I wonder what my relationship with Granny Grizzard might have been.

Would she have rocked me and consoled me? Would she have read Bible stories to me and taught me great lessons of life?

How would having known her have made me any different than I am today? Like everybody else, I've got a part or two missing in my personality. Could she have given me some of the qualities that slipped by?

But there is this one thing. I hesitate to bring it up here because I've never been one to put much into alleged contact with the great beyond.

When I was 3, my mother became gravely ill with an infection. Her doctors said the fact she lived was a miracle.

My mother told me so many times of a dream she had during her most critical moments:

"I was standing on one side of a lake and you were playing in the water. I looked across the lake and there stood Granny Grizzard. She said to me, 'Don't come across. Your son will need you.'"

"Maybe that's what got me through."

Maybe. So draw your own conclusions as to whether or not the tiny woman in the photograph did have something to do with the way I turned out after all.

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Mail Call

Student Senate speaks out

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to a column that appeared in *The Battalion* on Tuesday, September 12, which addressed the issue of the University Center expansion. The columnist indicated the Student Senate will discuss the issue on Tuesday, September 19. Furthermore, he encouraged students to attend this meeting in an effort to influence the senate's course of action. Since this may be misleading to some students, I would like to clarify the issue.

On Tuesday, September 19, Steve Hodge, manager of University Center, will present the expansion plans to the Student Senate. The expansion plans, however, will not be debated at this time. This is solely an informational meeting. Following Mr. Hodge's presentation, the senators will be allowed to ask questions for clarification purposes. Although all Student Senate meetings are open to the student body, I think it is important to realize that this presentation is primarily for the senators. I would not want students to be under the impression that this is their chance to come and voice their opinion of the expansion.

Students, however, will have an opportunity to address this issue. Student Government is sponsoring a public forum to be held on October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Rudder Theater. At that time, Mr. Hodge will again make a presentation on the expansion plans. At that presentation, the primary audience will be the general student body. I encourage all students concerned with the expansion to attend this presentation rather than the senate meeting.

If you desire more information, or if you wish to contact your student senator regarding this issue, please call the Student Government office at 845-3051 and I, or another Student Government member, will assist you in any manner we can.

Kevin Buchman '90
Student Body President

Aggies attend cultural events

EDITOR:

They were young. They were students. People like you and me who laughed, who cried, who had dreams and goals.

One hundred and two days ago, they died violent deaths for believing in rights many of us take for granted. We will never know their anguish, their terror, nor their desperation.

Tuesday night there was a 100-day memorial held by the Chinese Students Association and Chinese Scholars at Texas A&M.

I bring this to your attention because it is sad that given the opportunity to know firsthand what happens to other people who share our world, so few of us take that opportunity. Such opportunity gives us, first, an awareness of the preciousness of the freedoms and rights we have that are to be cherished and acted upon.

Second, awareness created by these opportunities cultivates an understanding for people from different places. Although each country is an entirety in itself, it is a vital part of a whole. Understanding builds bridges of communication among parts of the whole. Also, understanding and awareness give us the power of knowledge.

Some of us at TAMU today will tomorrow be international businessmen, government leaders, we will all be citizens of the world. And the knowledge that we acquire today at A&M can tomorrow be the power to change lives and to influence the future.

I call upon the Aggie code of honor that you meet this challenge. Let us stop being isolated parts. Let us instead begin today to build bridges of communication, awareness and understanding by attending events concerning other parts of the world and meeting other people with whom we share this world.

These bridges can make a difference in our future and in our world.

Diana Galindo, '90

No excuse for two-percenters

EDITOR:

Coriene Case '90 (the proud two-percenter) has, I think, a very strong argument for non-participation. Namely that she

doesn't have time, ever, because she's studying. Most of us only have to study about half the time, but we should take pity on those like Coriene who must study all the time. Coriene, since you are obviously smart enough to figure out that the Aggie spirit is simply a mindless educational fraud. Why have you stayed here? Aren't you ashamed to have the "90" after your name?

As for Jim Hayes' column "Tradition should be optional, not obligation;" Jim are you a transfer student? You seem to think everything on this campus has a military slant, and therefore is irrelevant. This attitude extends from bonfire Silver Taps to standing at ball games. These traditions have nothing to do with the Corps, but everything to do with student body. Today, Aggies are first; non-regs or CTs second.

Silver Taps is for an Aggie who has died. He could be someone in my P.E. class or your math class; maybe his mailbox was next to yours. Rarely is that person a CT. But they all come, not because they have to but because they care. "He was one of us," you might hear them say. They mean "He's an Aggie." Most of us non-regs don't go. But I believe it's because most just don't understand, it's not that they don't care.

Similarly, bonfire cut, stack and the Twelfth Man are student body activities (read "not just Corps"). At 22, I've only just realized that I don't know everything. Did you have to eat your veggies? I did, but I learned eventually that they were good for me after all. So it is with our traditions. It's amazing, you become a junior or senior in college and suddenly you know exactly what's good for you.

These traditions make us what we are. They make us Aggies. They are not a matter of convenience. If you don't believe in them, you don't believe in being an Aggie. And I think you should leave.

Kevin Jimmerson '89

Ags be thankful

EDITOR:

I recently had an opportunity to speak to an A&M graduate from the class of '38. He reminded me of a few sacred traditions that were held dear to Aggies for decades until they were crushed under the weight of progressive thinking. No blacks, no women and no non-regs were traditions held dear to heart by Aggies in those days.

The next time you get an urge to complain about those horrible, whining, liberal, tradition busters, maybe you should instead be grateful to the outspoken individuals who are responsible for your opportunity to attend this great learning institution.

Bryan Skipworth, '90

Nutty Ninja rider now eggplant

EDITOR:

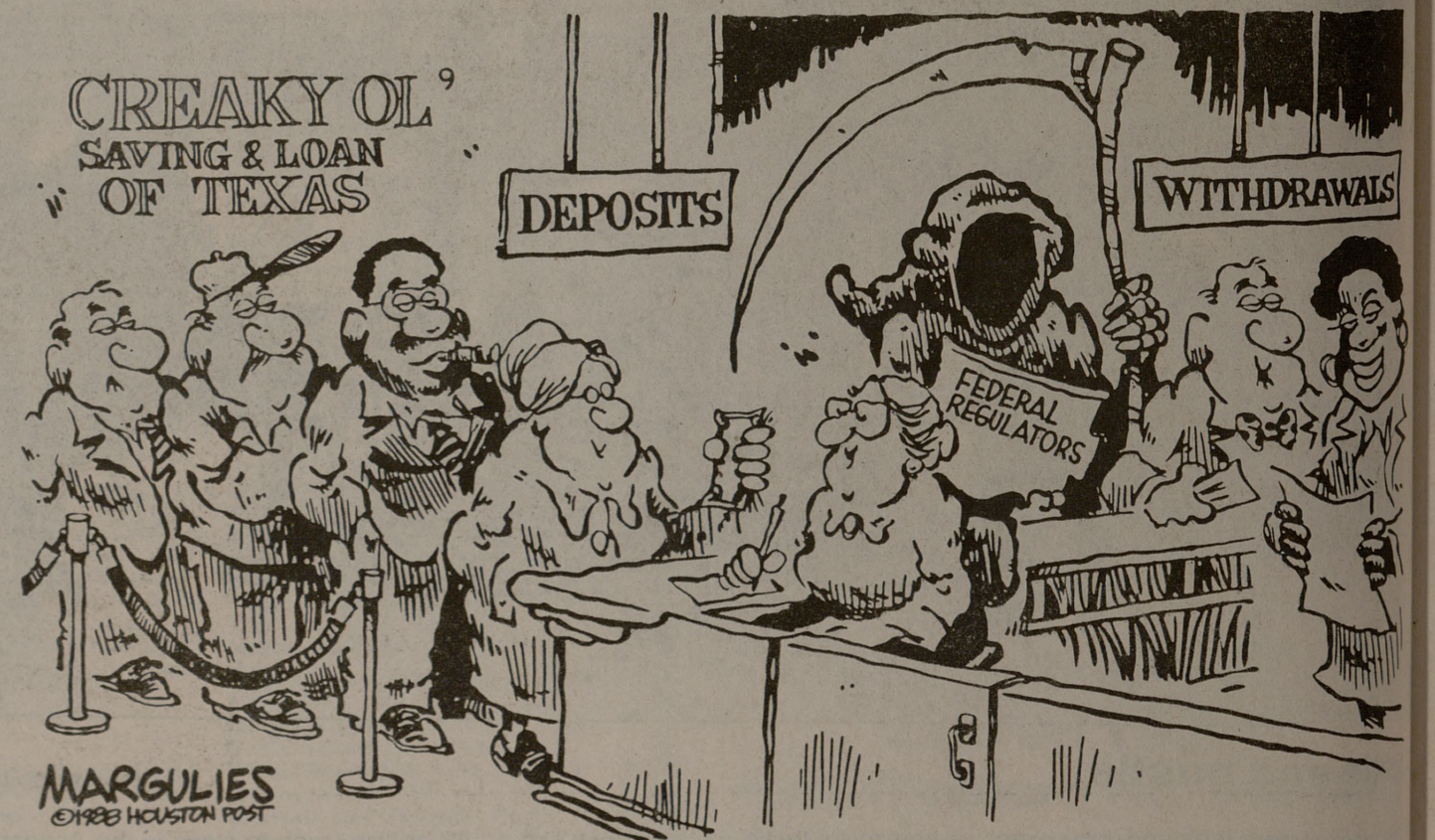
This letter is written in response to Mr. David Semon's feeble and immature attempt at a rebuttal of Timm Doolen's comments on the new helmet law. For someone who professes to be a graduate student, Mr. Semon argues the issue as well as a freshman (in high school!). It is because of his and other's obvious ignorance to the purpose of the legislation that it had to be enacted.

Mr. Semon, think exactly what the government has taken away from you; part of the risk of spending the rest of your "life" as an eggplant in a hospital somewhere, or worse, having to have your brain scraped from a curb like a watermelon dropped from a five-story building. Is it worth losing your life due to the fact that you didn't want to mess your hair up or look uncool? Is it so bad that others care whether you live or die?

Mr. Semon, you do not have to comply with the law, if you are resolved to take the consequences. As to your comment though, "If I can't be a danger to myself, I'll be a danger to everyone." I sincerely hope, for your sake, you never hurt anyone I know or care about because you will regret that day for the rest of your life.

Keith D. Gatewood, '91

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 author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.



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