

Mail Call

Football ticket turmoils

EDITOR:

Once was enough but twice? I'm referring to complications that have evolved as a result of the new computerized football tickets. For the LSU game, I was told "Someone reported all of these I.D. cards stolen" —which is double talk for "It's not our fault, blame it on the Pavilion."

Monday I was told, "the computer shows you have been issued tickets already," which is also double talk for "It's not our fault, blame it on the Pavilion." Well I'm not blaming the Pavilion. I'm blaming the Einstein who decided for all of us that the computer system is a better method.

Computer error is not the only bug in this program. Like most students, my football game companions and I elect one unlucky person to wait in the line from hell to draw tickets. If you don't believe computer processing time adds up, you didn't wait in line for Southern Mississippi tickets. Because we must surrender our I.D. cards on ticket day, our student existence ceases. Without your I.D. you cannot verify you are really you!

The ticket book system was much simpler. Losing someone's ticket book is one thing, but losing someone's I.D. is detrimental to the best of friendships. This is one of those times when it is appropriate to say "Don't fix what isn't broke."

The price of football tickets just went up. First you pay with your money, then with your time and patience. What next? I am beginning to doubt that any ticket is worth this price.

Tamir J. Nagim '89

Aggies first

EDITOR:

Personally, I don't see why everyone is getting all worked up about the differences between the Corps, Greeks and non-regs. After all, isn't it the diversity at this school as well as the traditions that draw students here year after year?

How can Michael Kelley suggest that the Greeks are "manipulating" the student body? Applicants for Fish Camp,

The Battalion and Student Body President must prove their qualifications for these jobs; they have been both selected and elected. Why doesn't Kelley give them the respect they deserve for the positions they have earned?

Besides, when was the last time we had a non-reg yell leader? Year after year, the Corps puts their block vote to work to ensure that the yell leaders are Cadets. I do see the logic in this choice because you couldn't expect to impose the yell leader traditions such as pushups and others on a non-reg. But don't you think that if someone is dedicated enough to try to be a yell leader, that he would carry out all his duties?

I am not permitted to use my sorority affiliation for support, but our organization has had bonfire buddies, gone to cut on several occasions and provided coffee and doughnuts at 4 o'clock in the morning for those building bonfire.

Kelley neglected to elaborate on what Greeks stand for. Let me enlighten him a bit. We stand for brotherhood and sisterhood — just like the Corps; we stand for the community — just like the Corps and the non-regs. Each year sororities and fraternities adopt families in the Brazos Valley, donate clothes to Goodwill and put on fund raising events for organizations like the March of Dimes, Just Say No and the American Cancer Society.

We are not based on money — yes, it does cost to be a member — but membership is based on the person you are as a whole! It is hard for me to understand how Kelley can judge something he has never experienced. Would Kelley be surprised to find out that there are about a dozen Cadets who are also members of Greek fraternities? Does this make them any less of an Aggie?

We must come to an understanding that with time there comes change. This conflict between the Corps, Greeks and non-regs is completely irrelevant. After all, aren't we Aggies first?

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

Are ticket books offensive?

You may know me, but on senior football ticket day, I'm just another random face in an endless sea of Aggies. Why? Because without a student I.D. card, I'm as good as nonexistent.

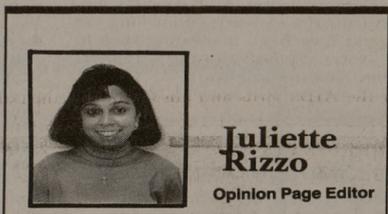
Like thousands of other Aggies on ticket day, I fork over my I.D. card to an individual who I trust to get my I.D. card back to me, but the question is, when will I get it back? And do I have the right to inconvenience this kind soul who stood in line for me by asking him to go out of his way to get my I.D. back to me ASAP so I won't starve (you know what I mean if you're on meal plan)?

And what if during this "I.D.-less" time I have to take an exam where I.D.'s are checked, or want to check out materials at the library, cash a check at the MSC (or off campus where I need my student I.D. as a second form of identification since I don't have any credit cards), use a computer at one of the many computing centers on campus or even check out the vacuum cleaner in my dorm?

Until yesterday, I was going to pass on the whole idea of computerized disbursement of football tickets. But after inquiring into the matter with the Athletic Business Office (I called to vent my frustrations and to find out why the handy-dandy ticket books were made obsolete without much advance notice), I decided that with some work (it may take a while) the new system may work to the students' advantage.

I learned that the new system was implemented for economic reasons and to make ticket purchasing easier and more efficient for both students and the University. I thought ticket books fit that description; shame on me. Ticket books were supposedly costly to print and hard for students to keep up with. Too many ticket books were reported lost, stolen or "washed up."

Although some of us now feel that we are washed up on the days we have to be without student identification, the elimination of the ticket book is supposed to speed up ticket distribution by eliminating some of the long lines and giving us one less thing to keep track of.



Juliette Rizzo
Opinion Page Editor

Well, about the lines. They may not seem to have shortened as of yet, but this has been due to the newness of the identification process and computer failure. Time may be all it will take to eliminate these problems.

The new process also protects the student if he reports a lost I.D. card: While allowing the student to have access to his remaining tickets, the computer will catch anyone who tries to use a missing or stolen I.D.

I also found out the new system has a notable advantage over the old ticket books — automatic updating. The old ticket books were stamped at the beginning of the fall semester with students' classifications and could not be updated during the course of a semester if a student transferred in hours or somehow jumped up a classification.

I also wondered what you do if you aren't going to the game and want to sell your ticket. I could just see signs saying "I.D. card for sale." It's a scary thought to think of putting my I.D. card, my life, in the hands of a stranger. I was told scalping will be lessened. Aggies don't lie, cheat or steal but, in the past, many sold ticket books to make a profit.

In the future, students will profit from the new method of disbursement, or so the Student Services Committee of the Student Senate anticipated when they supported the proposed new system. Concerns were voiced by students and the Senate committee acted on those concerns, namely the long hours standing in long lines during the issuance of ticket books at the beginning of the fall semester. This problem has now been eliminated.

Planning seems to be the key to elimi-

nating the problems the new system seems to be causing students. Students need to realize that the pressure to get good football tickets at 8 a.m. doesn't exist. Due to random distribution, good and bad tickets are available all day, so I.D. cards don't have to be sacrificed at "eating hours."

As far as football tickets go, the University is acting in our best interests. The University provides us with an advantage over other schools — students have reserved seating. Whereas students at t.u. only get to sit in strictly general admission seats if they pay their athletic fee. Texas A&M goes through the trouble and expense to get the best tickets for all Aggies who want them.

The University would not go through the trouble and expense to get the best tickets, the reserved tickets, for all Aggies who want them if they weren't trying to maintain quality ticket distribution and disbursement.

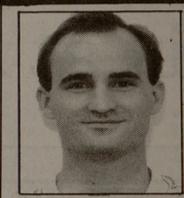
Although we are temporarily being inconvenienced, the kinks in the system eventually will work themselves out and all will run smoothly. If you don't think so, think back (if you're a senior) to the first day of telephone registration — standing in line for endless hours only to access a system that was so confusing you hung up. Now it's hard to think of registering any other way.

So for now, patiently wait in line for your tickets — another great Aggie tradition. And perhaps in the future FANTASTIC tickets will only be a phone call away!

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

Learning experiences abound at A&M

Certain issues involving higher education keep popping up in the news, year in and year out. Two such concerns consistently have regarded the effects of competing dual demands, researching and teaching, on professors' performance and the impact that growing class lecture sizes have on student learning.



Jim Hayes
Columnist

Certainly these and other related issues merit attention, and their settlement in the past has helped to shape A&M into the University it has become today. Yet, these types of issues tend to reduce to a broader concern: students' opportunity to learn.

A&M offers various types of learning opportunities for students. Classes, the library and other resource centers, student organizations, cultural and intellectually-oriented programs and entertainment and recreation events all enhance the learning environment.

We all have grown familiar with classes by now, but we too easily may take this learning opportunity for granted. The faculty has been selected and hired to teach in their areas of expertise.

As students we have a unique opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and understanding such faculty members offer. Our texts also are selected to enhance this learning experience. Those who express concern over research expectations for faculty and large classes likely see the benefits of classroom teaching and fear this opportunity could diminish.

The library and other resource centers also offer many valuable learning opportunities. Our predecessors have toiled and suffered through generation after generation of experience and trial and error in bringing our world to the present day. Much of the knowledge, wisdom and understanding that they have gained rests in distilled form in today's books and learning materials.

The library and other resource centers, then, function much like bountiful fountains of knowledge from which we all may drink the accumulated scholarship of ages past and present. Such learning can prepare us to progress more wisely and surely down the various paths in life we choose to take.

Student organizations contribute to the learning atmosphere in many ways. Groups based around academic disciplines help to bring students together to share common interests.

Groups focused upon social or service aims help students learn to live and contribute within society. Groups with religious orientations contribute to the learning atmosphere by shaping students' spiritual understanding. Other groups contribute in various ways that are harder to classify but still quite important.

Cultural and intellectually-oriented programs also offer numerous learning opportunities. Musical programs and plays offer cultural enrichment, and various speakers and presentations provide opportunities to expand intellectually.

The MSC Committees provide many of this kind of opportunity, and other organizations also sponsor such programs. Like the other opportunities these continue through the entire semester. The Fall Calendar and The Battalion's What's Up section list many such programs.

Entertainment and recreation events can make learning much more enjoyable. Aggie sporting events, movies, concerts and numerous other events all offer refreshing breaks from the rigorous coursework.

These various aspects of campus life combine to provide an excellent learning environment. Through the years, Texas taxpayers have invested tremendous amounts of resources to make these opportunities available to students. Today, state funds still sponsor significant portion of student educational costs. Generous alumni also have helped to build A&M into the university it has become.

We live in one of the most economically prosperous societies, if not the most prosperous, ever known, in which universities such as A&M provide centers of serious study and learning.

As students, we can freely choose how we spend our time and expend our effort while attending. Our respective states and nations, and ultimately our world, will depend upon us to lead and contribute as we enter our careers. I think that we benefit both ourselves and our society in the long run by diligently seeking knowledge and understanding in whatever learning opportunities we explore.

We, the students, ultimately provide A&M's most valuable "resource" and purpose for operating. The various issues involving higher education seem to me one way or another to touch upon our opportunity to learn.

This opportunity to learn may last only a relatively short time in our lives, but how we respond to it can affect our and our society for as long as we live.

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The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-1111.