

EDITORIAL

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PTTS overcharges for parking violations

Texas A&M and the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services overcharge students for violations of parking procedures. An A&M student, faculty or staff member can be charged \$10 to \$100 for a minor violation of the PTTS parking rules. Most Aggies live on limited budgets, and a \$25 or \$50 ticket can be a financial burden on their pocketbooks. Is PTTS in business to make a profit by penalizing students and faculty with excessive fees? Or does it exist to serve the A&M population in a crowded campus atmosphere where parking has always been an inconvenience? Maybe A&M is worried about paying for the University's three new parking garages, which are unavailable to off-campus students who make up the majority of the Aggie population. Students should be responsible for their actions, but the price for a minor parking infraction should not financially encumber anybody. A&M and PTTS should be more understanding of everyone's resources, and adjust parking fines accordingly.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Hassles of towing cause much grief

Welcome back to school Ags. I hate to start school with bad news, but I feel a great injustice is going on here in College Station. Let me share with you a very unpleasant episode my wife and I experienced over the summer.

It began on a Sunday afternoon in early July. We had been attending summer school at Stephen F. Austin and had not been back to Texas A&M since the end of the spring semester. We decided to go to the Dixie Chicken to get a beer and something to eat. Little did we know we were about to be taken for a ride of a life time.

As we pulled up to the Chicken's parking lot, my wife asked me if we could go to the bookstore and get a bumper sticker for our car. Thinking nothing of it, we did. After 10 minutes of shopping for the sticker, we left the bookstore to get our beer.

On the way to the Chicken, I noticed something odd. Since it was a Sunday afternoon, there were only about three or four cars in the parking lot, and one of them was supposed to be our's. However, it was not there.

My first thought was it had been stolen. Then I was brought back to reality when a young man from the back patio of the Dixie Chicken said, "I had your car towed!" I was dumb struck. I asked him why it was towed, and he very rudely said, "Can't you read?" Then I saw the sign hanging about 15 feet in the air which read "Parking for Sticky Chins, Dixie Chicken and Duddley's Draw. All Others Towed."

I told the young man we were planning on stopping in at the Chicken just as soon as we had bought a bumper sticker. He said that did not matter.

Well, the story gets even worse. I asked him how I was suppose to get

my car back. He gave me a phone number and told me I would have to go find a pay phone because their pay phone was broken.

My wife and I walked to the 7-11 on the corner and called the towing company. After three hours had passed, and I had wasted \$4.25, the towing company finally told me I could come pick up my car, but we would have to find our own ride out to their shop which is located close to the courthouse in Bryan!

The only thing we could do was call a taxi. By this time, my wife was crying and I was definitely upset.

Thanks goes to the goodness of a true Aggie who saw we were in a bind. He offered to take us out there so we wouldn't have to spend more money on a taxi. After we arrived at Lee and Sons Wrecker shop, we had to call again and wait another 40 minutes. The total charge for the towing, with the exception of phone call expenses, was \$42.50!

Aggies, you must admit that for all the support we give to the Dixie Chicken, the owner does not reciprocate the same for us. Whatever happened to places that try to please the customers? Not to say there aren't any more out there, but if all businesses acted this way, I wouldn't want to go anywhere.

For goodness sakes, the students are their livelihood and we shouldn't have to put up with this nonsense.

It took them less than 10 minutes to tow my car, but almost four hours and \$50 for me to get it back. That is ridiculous and not much in the tradition of the Aggie courtesy by which we abide. We are all students here, and if you're like my wife and I who are paying our own way through school, every penny counts.

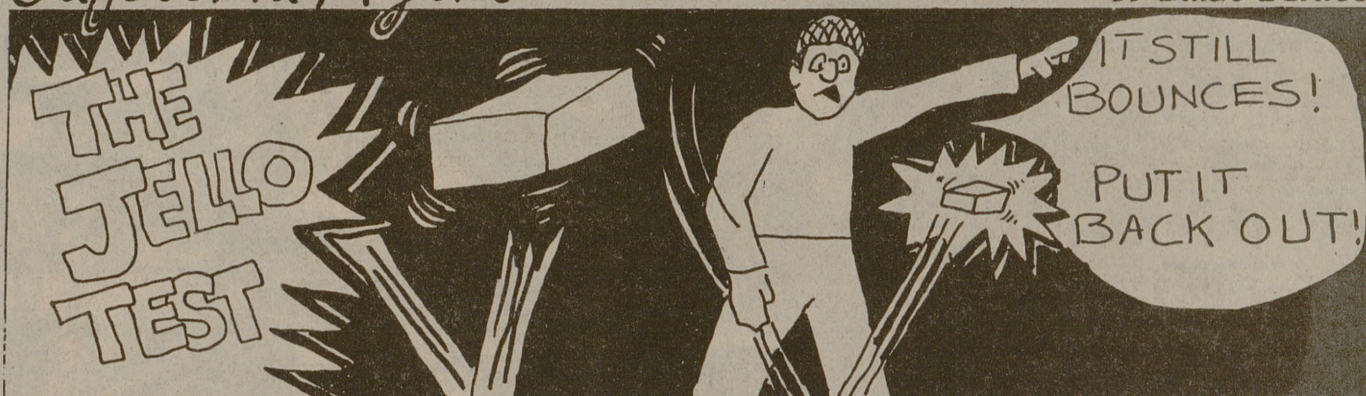
I pray no one else has this same experience because believe me, you won't forget it.

Reader's Opinion

Shannon George is a senior industrial distribution major.

Cafeteria Myths

by Bingo Barnes



Lease on military installation runs out

U.S. must retain Subic Bay Naval Station in Philippines

"The time has come for the Philippines to put an end to the spirit of dependence on the United States. We need to cut the apron strings with America, even though we are scared to do it."

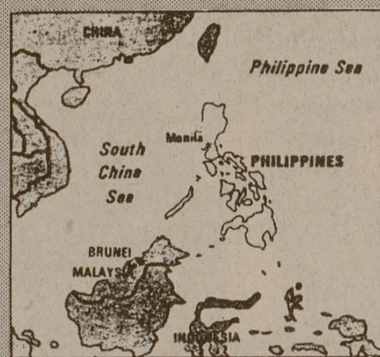
— Philippine Senator Aganito Aquino.

On Monday the lease ran out on the largest military installation in Southeast Asia - Subic Bay Naval Station on the northwestern coast of the Philippines. The only other installation in the country was Clark Air Force Base, which is now abandoned after being covered in ash and lava from Mount Pinatubo to the west.

In the past, both Clark AFB and Subic Bay were vital to the United States policy of containment, surrounding the Soviet Union and China with large military bases in Europe and the Pacific. With the prolonged collapse of the Soviet Union, however, Subic Bay has not been used to keep a watchful eye upon communist aggressors, but merely as a repair and refueling depot for the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Negotiations for a 10-year extension of the lease for Subic Bay were started 16 months ago. The biggest snag has been the amount of money the United States would give annually to the Philippines.

Many Filipinos see the money as annual rent for the bases. The Bush administration, on the other hand, sees the money strictly as aid to help keep a newly formed democracy in power. The Filipino Government under the leadership of Corazon Aquino is asking for approximately \$1 billion a year in aid in exchange for the use of the land the port is on.



One week ago, the Philippine Senate - all 23 senators - voted in committee on the extension. Two-thirds of the Senate must approve the treaty for it to be ratified. The committee voted 12 to 11 against, all but ensuring the failure of the treaty when it comes to a formal vote this week.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has left the decision in Philippine hands, saying "It's a choice they have to make. If they're not prepared to ratify the treaty and extend the agreement, then we will in fact depart."

There have been protests by both sides. Some of the demonstrators say the bases are vestiges of American colonialism, and the Philippines can never be truly free until the bases are gone.

The Communist rebels in the country have announced a cease-fire as long as the Senate opposes the treaty.

President Aquino, on the other hand, has called for large-scale demonstrations in support of the treaty. There are more than 70,000 Filipinos who have jobs connected with the Subic Bay Naval Station. The 40,000 Americans who are there now buying food, clothes, etc., from the Philippine economy would leave a gaping hole that President Aquino would be hard pressed to fill.

Hopefully the Filipino Senate is posturing only to try and get more money. To be sure, America should sweeten the deal with a larger aid package. Subic Bay is important.

The Cold War may be over with the Soviet Union, but China shows little sign of breaking down any time soon, and no one can predict the future relationship America will have with the new Soviet government.

The treaty that ended World War II stated Japan could never again build a defense force. In this agreement, it is implicit America pick up the slack to defend Japan, presumably against the Soviet Union.

Removing the largest military base in the Pacific, one function of which is to defend Japan, must make some Japanese very unhappy. I am not comfortable with the idea of giving Japan a reason to begin building a military force.

The withdrawal of such a huge American presence could bring down the already shaky democratic government in the Philippines, and allow the Communist rebels to finally win their 22-year-old rebellion.

Subic Bay is important for yet another reason. Many of the wars in the next 20 to 30 years will be similar to the stated cause of the Iraq-Kuwait war. Border conflicts and struggles for national integrity will spring up all over Africa and Southeast Asia. If the United States wants to continue to be the world's police officers, then it must have a presence in the "high crime areas."

President Bush said Operation Desert Storm was not about oil but unhindered aggression. He should prove this by taking preventive steps against that same type of aggression which could occur in the Pacific.

The duties Subic Bay Naval Station performs should not be underestimated. Yes, the official duties of the port (maintenance and training) could be transferred to Hawaii, Guam or the other naval bases in the Pacific. But it is the location and size of Subic Bay that is important.


Any military police action the United States might try in Southeast Asia would more easily be accepted if a large military presence in the Philippines is maintained.

The extension of the lease of Subic Bay is mutually beneficial to both the American and Philippine governments. The democratic government in place now will have a much greater chance of survival if the base remains. Extension will save the American taxpayers uncounted millions in moving costs and will allow the United States the chance to keep peace in the Pacific until the turn of the century.



David Nash

Nash is a junior biochemistry major.



Mr. Subliminal

THE TV AD BY RENEGADE CONSERVATIVES
(Fine, upstanding patriots)

ATTACKING 3 DEMOCRATIC SENATORS
(Liberal slimeballs deserve it)

HAS NO PLACE IN THE SUPREME COURT
(Nice job, guys)

NOMINATION OF CLARENCE THOMAS.

I WANT IT PULLED IMMEDIATELY!
(Run it more often)

MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

Mail Call

Yell leaders need practice before Tulsa

❖ What was the deal with the new yell leaders at the LSU game?
I have been to every home game and some away games for five years, and I was appalled at how they led so many yells when we had the ball and were lined up to run a play.
Were they not told we are supposed to be quiet when the Aggies are lined up to run a play and make noise when our opponents are on offense. I realize this might be slightly confusing at first, but maybe they can catch on for the Tulsa game.
I really liked the yell leaders' enthusiasm, but it needs to be timed appropriately so not to distract the football players.
The crowd noise is supposed to be a hindrance to visiting teams, not the Aggies.

Julie Uhlenhaker '90
accompanied by three signatures

Have an opinion? Express it!

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers. All letters to the editor are welcome. Written letters must be signed and include classification, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. The Battalion reserves the right to edit all letters for length, style and accuracy. There is no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 013 Reed McDonald, sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111 or can be faxed to 845-5408.