

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Home games bring higher hotel rates

By TODD STONE
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Many Bryan-College Station hotels raise room rates during football weekends by an average of 40 percent, according to a Battalion survey of 12 local establishments.

Dallas resident George Linskie, Class of '38, believes these pricing practices are unfair — so he chose to charter a private plane to B-CS with friends rather than pay the higher hotel rates.

"We can fly down on an expensive airplane with an open bar for less than what it would take to get two rooms for the weekend at (some hotels)," Linskie said. "We've been living with this for some time. We understand they (hotels) have to survive, but it's getting ridiculous."

Local hotels were surveyed for rates on a non-football weekend (Sept. 26) and for this weekend's football game featuring A&M vs. Texas Tech. The average rate for Sept. 26 was \$51 while the average for Saturday is \$72. All rates were for two people in a standard room without discounts.

Jennifer Blackenship, director of sales for the College Station Holiday Inn, said increasing rates for football weekends is unfair and unnecessary. Rates for Holiday Inn, Motel 6 and La Quinta Inn are the same for football and non-football weekends.

"Just because more people are coming to town, why try to take advantage of them by raising the rates?" Blackenship asked. "That (raising rates) doesn't sound like good customer service to me."

Dick Forester, director of the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitor Bureau, de-

clined to comment on hotel pricing policies and its effects on the local economy.

Maier Hathout, general manager of the College Station Hilton, said raising rates is just a matter of prices rising to mirror demand.

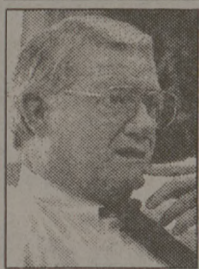
"Every hotel has different rate structures based on demand and supply," Hathout said. "For higher demand, the rates will be in the upper tier."

The state attorney's general office agrees. Ron Dusek, spokesperson for the office, said setting different rates is just a part of capitalism.

felt, and how it could affect their business," Crow said. "I don't want to dictate how they should run their business — just as I wouldn't want them running the athletic department. They're just looking to fill their house."

Many hotels also require a two-night minimum stay for football weekends. Crow said this could restrict how many fans go to football games because many fans would stay in town only one night if they were not required to purchase a room for two nights.

Without the two-night minimum, an open night could be available for other fans to at-



"Obviously, if it starts to hurt our revenue we have to look at alternatives — such as five or four home games and more games on the road. I hope the alternative is not to schedule fewer home games. That certainly hurts the students, and we wouldn't want that."

—John David Crow, Texas A&M athletic director

"We have a free market system," Dusek said. "Now if they secretly conspire to fix prices, that would be against the law. That would violate the state's anti-competitive business laws."

Linskie wrote a letter to Texas A&M Athletic Director John David Crow about his complaints because he believes some hotels are "killing the goose that laid the golden egg." Crow, in turn, distributed the letter to nine local hotels.

"I feel like I needed to let the local hotels know at least how one of our former students

tend games and have rooms to rent as well, Crow said.

Still, Crow is uncertain whether the two-night policy has affected this year's ticket sales.

"Obviously, if it starts to hurt our revenue we have to look at alternatives — such as five or four home games and more games on the road," Crow said. "I hope the alternative is not to schedule fewer home games. That certainly hurts the students, and we wouldn't

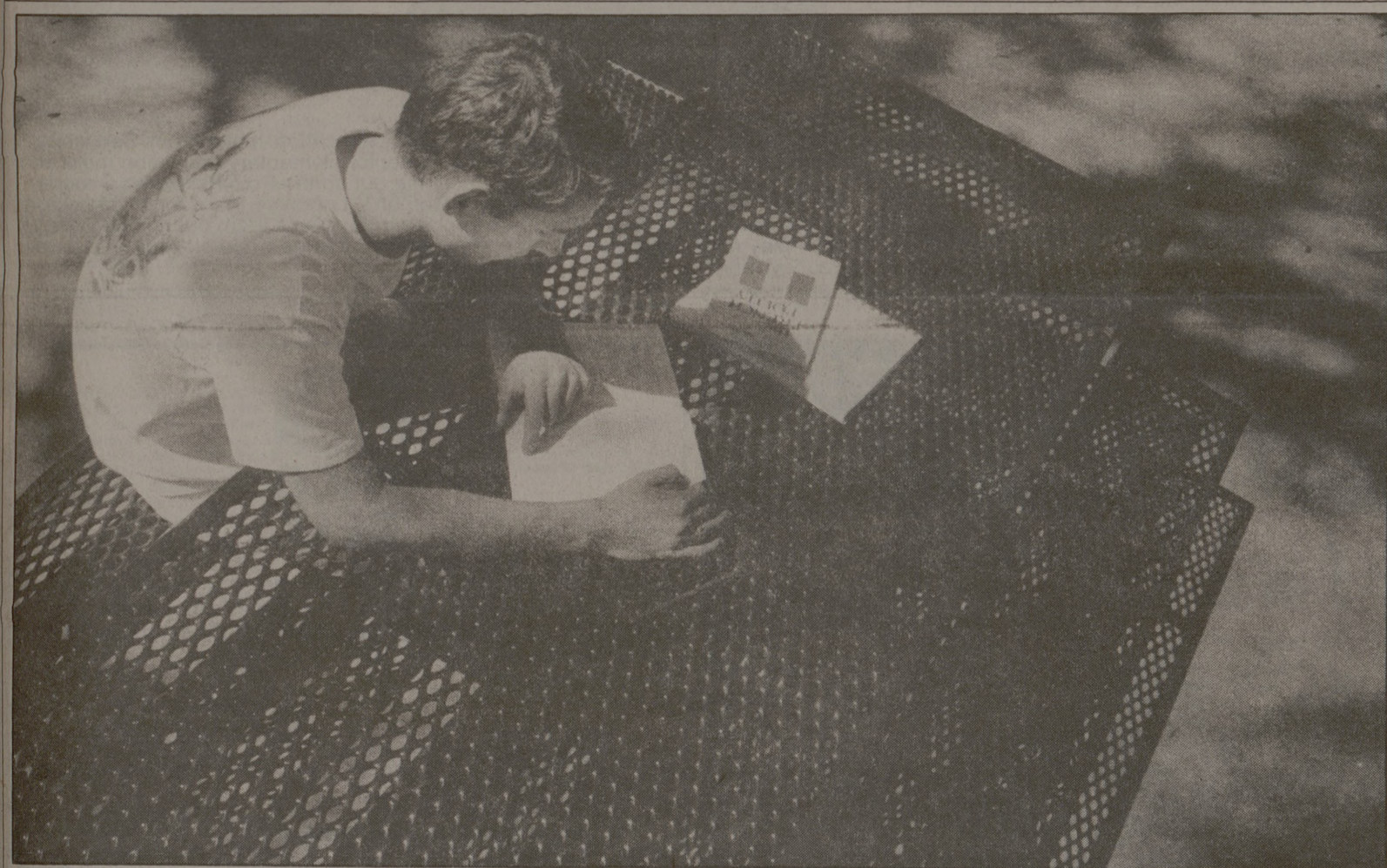
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Regular weekend rates/one couple—Sept. 26 Home football game weekend rates/one couple—Oct. 3

Best Western	\$63	\$89
Comfort Inn	\$47	\$70
Hilton	\$89	\$109
E-Z Travel	\$32	\$63
Hampton Inn	\$48	\$70
Ponderosa	\$30	\$40
Manor House	\$54	\$70
Ramada	\$53	\$75
Quality Inn	\$40	\$59
La Quinta Inn	\$55	
Holiday Inn	\$53	
Motel 6	\$30	
*Average	\$51	\$72

*Average does not include rates of La Quinta Inn, Holiday Inn, or Motel 6.

Anas Ben-Musa / The Battalion



Tom King, a junior history major from Houston, enjoys the weather while studying for a Politics of Postwar France class behind Keathley Hall on Tuesday. The forecast for today calls for highs in the 80s, lows in the 60s with lots of sunshine.

JENNIFER LOCKARD/The Battalion

Junior cadets face restrictions on yell practice traditions

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI and TODD STONE
Reporters of THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets will have new restrictions placed on them because of 'good bull' turned bad at the Sept. 12 midnight yell practice, a Corps official said.

Corps Commander Matthew Michaels said members of the Corps of Cadets who chase or physically engage people running across Kyle Field during midnight yell practice will not be able to participate in the following yell practice.

The penalty will extend to the cadet's entire unit. Michaels believes this will deter a cadet from breaking the rule because he or she will not want to penalize his or her unit for the mistake.

Michaels said cadets are instructed to stay in their positions on the track at Kyle Field at all times, no matter how many students run onto the field.

"If someone or a whole group of people wants to run across the field that's fine," Michaels said. "They can run across that field, be a bad Ag, stand out there and look like a fool because no one is going to chase them."

Controversy arose during the first home yell practice when fighting broke out as cadets attempted to prevent A&M students and non-students from running onto the field.

Michaels said that if nothing else, the incident at yell practice has at least made people more aware about problems that can occur.

"Now that the issue has been brought out, there will be a lot of civilian students saying, 'hey, that's bad bull,'" he said. "I think people are aware of the traditions on that side of the house and people are going to say 'Hey, I'm not going to run out there, I'm going to be a good Ag.'"

Tim Sweeney, associate director of student activities, said the incident at the Sept. 12 yell practice is a concern for many students and he plans to address it with various student organizations.

"Just the outcry has people stirred up and upset about what happened, which I'm glad to see," he said.

Sweeney said he will try to communicate the purpose of ju-

niors on the field to groups such as Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council, and other organizations that deal with large groups of people.

He said the role of the Corps during yell practice needs to be defined because there is much misunderstanding among students.

"They (the juniors) are there to be a symbolic, formal, psychological barrier," Sweeney said. "Their purpose is not to chase people, rather, to ask people to leave and escort them off the field. Crowd control is a very delicate thing."

John Koldus, vice president of student services, agrees and said the meaning of traditions such as yell practice need to be explained through a brochure or other form of literature.

"From one generation to another, it (tradition) gets lost in translation," he said. "It's simply a matter of making sure that you

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continue the communication from one group to another."

Koldus said people need to know what are and are not traditions. More specifically, they need to know Kyle Field is not a memorial.

"It is not Kyle Field Memorial stadium," Koldus said. "The flags (around the stadium) honor the 55 individuals that were killed in World War I who were Aggies. But it's not a tradition that Kyle Field itself is a memorial."

Officials are concerned with the upkeep of the turf, and juniors' only purpose is to signify that going onto the field is inappropriate.

Although witnesses have said about 50 people participated in the fighting, Bob Wiatt, director of University Police, said UPD will

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Merchants petition A&M regents

Northgate business owners protest potential food services privatization

By MACK HARRISON
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Northgate merchants are protesting the proposed privatization of food services at some Texas A&M facilities with a petition claiming local businesses will be hurt in the process.

Danny Dodd, owner of Spanky's Good Grub and Pub in the Northgate area, said privatization would have a negative impact on off-campus businesses across the street from the University.

The proposal calls for a private food services firm to bring fast food franchises to Sbis Underground and Billy Mac's at Easterwood Airport — in competition with non-franchise restaurants on Northgate.

Dodd, who is circulating the petition, said he plans to send it to the A&M Board of Regents today.

"I hope the Board of Regents realizes what kind of impact it (privatization) will have on people here," Dodd said. "It's hard enough for businesses in the summer."

Dodd said local restaurants should have been included in the bidding.

"It's going to be the small guys that shut their doors," he said. "A&M used to care about local merchants."

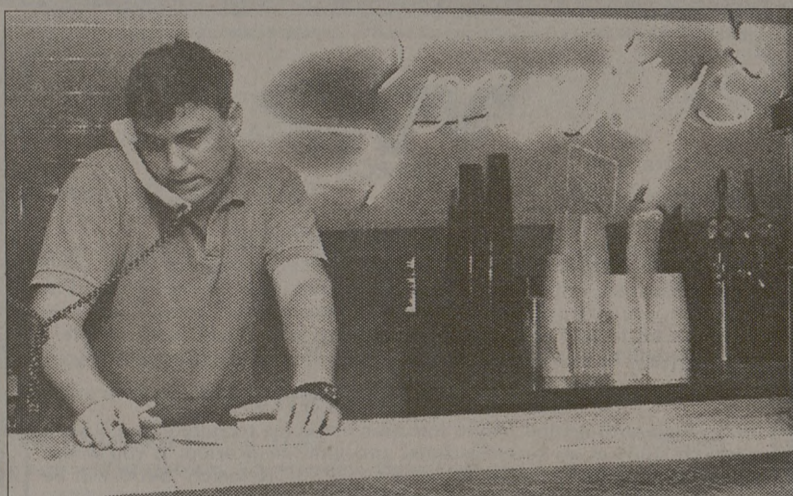
Jim McGuire, owner of the Cow Hop, located on University Drive across from A&M also said A&M officials did not inform business owners of the proposal.

"If the school was interested in having (private) restaurants, I do think it would have been nice if they had asked the people on Northgate," McGuire said. "I never saw anything."

McGuire said he was unaware of the Northgate petition and feels it will do little good. He said the administration will do what it wants to regardless of what people think.

"If there is one (petition), it's a little late," McGuire said. "Their minds are already made up — its going to go through."

Kim Baig, president of the Brazos Valley Chapter of the Texas Restaurant Association, said it is too early to say exactly what will



Ron Cooper, an employee at Spanky's Good Grub and Pub, takes a phone order Tuesday evening.

KYLE BURNETT/The Battalion

happen, and the organization is looking into the matter.

"We're concerned about this new move," Baig said. "I know the merchants at Northgate are directly affected (by privatization)."

Both Dodd and McGuire said food services privatization parallels the private acquisition of the MSC Bookstore two years ago. Dodd said A&M did not allow lo-

cal merchants to bid on the contract for bookstore operations.

Dodd said he plans to talk to the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce about the issue and get as much information as possible.

"We're going to see what happens," he said. "We want to get feedback. We want to see what our options are."