

MAIL CALL

PTTS ticket billing methods outrageous

I am sure that some, if not all of you who work or attend classes on this campus would be outraged if you found that one of the departments had added to your account any charges or fines belonging to your roommate.

In case you have not read the article "PTTS Charges Tickets to Roommate" in The Battalion on Nov. 10, it appears that Parking, Traffic, and Transit Services (PTTS) has done just that! As if this travesty is not bad enough in itself, PTTS representatives claim that it is "perfectly legal," and will not comment further.

What the hell is going on?! Since when is theft legal?

If one person charges a purchase to the account of another person without permission of the latter, the first is considered guilty of theft, regardless of whether or not the two share an address. Simply put, the reported acts of PTTS constitute a form of theft.

This recently uncovered situation is yet another indication of an unresponsive organization that is out of control.

I urge President Mobley and the Department of Student Affairs to investigate this problem and to evaluate PTTS as a whole.

Furthermore, I hope that some corrective action is taken to help PTTS remember its basic purpose of existence: to serve the people of this University who pay the bills and make paychecks reality for the PTTS employees!

Chris McNees
Class of '91

Imagine getting to school without buses

In regards to the millions of people who have been victimized by scheming and cruel bus drivers, I would like them to consider the alternative — no buses!

That's right, none! Life would be so much easier for the student leaders who make Bus Operations work. No more coordination problems of keeping over 60 buses operating on schedule at all times.

The bus drivers wouldn't have to worry about getting into wrecks or hitting pedestrians that walk out in front of a bus like it was a car. Nor would they have to worry about driving a 40-foot bus in a rainstorm and people getting upset because that bus is off schedule. I myself have been late to class, so I understand the inconvenience that it causes.

Don't just get upset, find out why the bus is late. Maybe the bus broke down (which is inevitable with over 60 buses running) or maybe a train or another traffic jam delayed the bus. These things, among others, occur daily and cannot be controlled. Other problems can only be controlled if Bus Operations knows the problem. If you have a problem, don't gripe, call! This two-way communication will be beneficial both to you and to Bus Operations because better service makes everyone happy. So, the next time a bus is running late and the driver says "Howdy," don't look at him or her with a where-the-hell-have-you-been look. Just reply with a friendly "Howdy" and understand we are doing the best we can.

Matt Miller
Class of '94

Education is the cure for ethnocentrism

The requirement of classes on multiculturalism is an idea whose time has come. Let's face it — education is the

most efficient vehicle for social change, and as we have seen recently, the time has come for a change in attitude of whites about minorities. It is past due.

For 200 years, we have forced minorities to learn, almost exclusively, white history, social customs, and religion. I think it's about time to learn what the rest of the world has to offer.

Black history does not begin and end with slavery and civil rights, and Hispanic and South American history extends far beyond Columbus' "discovery."

Think of the literature you have studied through high school and college. I am willing to bet that almost every author you encountered was American, European, and perhaps Russian.

We have missed a whole world of valuable literature from thousands of other cultures because we are Eurocentric and culturally ignorant. There are millions of contributions that we completely overlook due to a lack of interest or understanding.

Multiculturalism is not about trying to brainwash the majority — it is about developing an understanding of the contributions, views, and values of various people.

We are cheating ourselves out of so much by refusing to educate ourselves, and by denying other cultures.

Stacy Fletcher
Class of '91

We need respect, not racial tolerance

I would like to commend Dr. Mobley on his article concerning racial tolerance.

However, it is my belief that racial tolerance is what is hindering race relations at Texas A&M.

When I think of the word tolerate, I think of putting up with something that I do not like; for instance, I tolerate prejudiced people.

Tolerance, in what I have seen over the course of my life, only increases tension, uneasiness and animosity. What

we as a diverse campus really need is racial respect and understanding. Each culture whether Asian, African, African-American, Hispanic, or Anglo has something to offer from a rich history to the contributions made by each race today.

As a multicultural campus, to gain full understanding and respect of one another, it is necessary to learn of one another's cultures.

It is for these reasons that I urge everyone to take at least one multicultural class.

Each culture is rich in its own respect, and I feel that we are only hindering ourselves by not learning about one another's cultures.

Michelle Lyons
Class of '93

Choice better than cultural requirement

Part of being American is that all men are created equal. While some don't realize this, forcing them into a multicultural class will only cause more resentment in them.

I have a counterproposal. A choice of multicultural classes for a new requirement won't make the medicine taste any better, but offering it as an alternative to existing core curriculum requirements will.

This would not add to existing course loads; it would offer an easy good grade, and when combined with the fact that it's not being forced on anyone, it would be more readily accepted.

Even people (like me) who dislike multiculturalism might take the class for a GPA booster as an alternative to, for example, a history course for their cultural heritage requirement. Honey catches more flies than water.

One more note to think about — t.u., the multicultural liberal capitol of Texas, doesn't have a multicultural requirement.

Robert Jackson
Class of '96

Save the UT rivalry for football games

I am writing to respond to Stefano Alberti's question in Monday's edition, "What is so wrong with going to school in Austin?" There is nothing wrong with going to the University of Texas at Austin. In fact, many A&M graduate students, including myself, and many faculty members received degrees from UT Austin. Many of the anthropology faculty have UT degrees, and some of Evans Library administration are UT grads.

The superconducting supercollider is the result of a close relationship between A&M and UT faculty. The space grant came about because of cooperative efforts between A&M and UT faculty and administration. Other departments and programs currently in joint projects with officials include Psychology, Geosciences, Civil Engineering, Transportation, Water Resources, Archaeology, Sociology, Classics, Educational Psychology, Linguistics, Kinesiology, Study Abroad, Student Radio and Offshore Technology, just to name a few.

Perhaps what you are bewildered about is how students on this campus can be so fervent about their ill-will toward their sister university. I too am amazed at the extent and depth of this animosity. Upon first coming to this University, I thought the rancor and hostility was just in jest and part of the competitive spirit surrounding athletics. But I soon found this represented a broader, more pervasive attitude toward UT in general, including the educational aspects of UT. How can this be, when at the academic level so much cooperation is taking place in very important areas which will benefit all Texans and Americans? I believe it is time to stop the belligerence toward UT on such a grand scale and leave the sophomore antics for athletic competition only.

Aggies and Longhorns — no place but Texas!

John M. Velasquez
A&M graduate student
UT Class of '79

For Information Call 847-8478

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The Battalion

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asst. sports editor	copy editor
asst. opinion page editor	photographer
reporter	graphic artist
feature writer	cartoonist
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Application forms available at the front desk in room 013 Reed McDonald Building. All majors encouraged to apply.

Deadline: 5 p.m. Thursday, November 19.

Applicants must be Texas A&M students in good standing at the time of employment and remain in good standing while employed.

For more information, contact Steve O'Brien, 1993 Spring Battalion Editor, 845-3315.

All films are only \$2 and will be presented in Rudder Theatre Complex.