

Athletic office begins football ticket sales

Students who wish to purchase tickets for home games must bring their athletic sports cards to the ticket office at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

One student can pick up a maximum of 10 tickets, but an athletic sports card is required for each student ticket.

Tickets are distributed randomly by classification beginning five school days before each home game.

Monday beginning at 7 a.m., seniors and graduate students can purchase tickets. Tuesday, juniors can pick up their tickets and so on.

Friday, all students can pick up tickets.

Courtesy Texas A&M Athletic Ticket Office

Tickets for away games can be bought beginning Sept. 4 at 8 a.m. An athletic sports card is required for each student ticket purchased.

Due to the limited number of tickets available for the Sept. 23 game at Colorado, a limit of six tickets per student is in effect. There is no limit for any other away game.

On game day, a picture student I.D. and a reserved seat ticket are needed to gain admittance to Kyle Field.

Lost or stolen cards may be replaced in 113 G. Rollie White Coliseum. A \$10 fee for a replacement card will be charged as a student fee.

STUDENTS

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have to dish out the cash right away. It is very convenient to use the Aggie Bucks, and I will probably use them off campus again."

Johnson's mother, Linda, said parents think it is better to have the Aggie Bucks available off campus.

"Since I am paying for her books anyway, the Aggie Bucks are a good choice," Linda Johnson said. "I know that with Aggie Bucks she will spend the money on good stuff because she can't buy anything like a beer with them."

Mark Charpentier, a junior biochemistry major, also used his Aggie Bucks off campus and said that although he had problems returning some items he bought with Aggie Bucks, he still thinks it is more convenient.

"It was difficult to return the

items I needed to," Charpentier said, "but if I need something off campus then I will use them again."

Charpentier said he thinks other places should also take Aggie Bucks.

"I think that convenience stores and fast food places should also start accepting Aggie Bucks," he said.

Marianna Riabova, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said she has only used her Aggie Bucks in the MSC Bookstore.

"I didn't know we could use Aggie Bucks off campus because I had tried before and couldn't," Riabova said. "Now I will use them if I need something in an off-campus bookstore."

Another incoming freshman, Brian Moncrief, said he hasn't used Aggie Bucks off-campus yet but he will.

"I don't actually have my Aggie Bucks yet," Moncrief said, "but when I get them I will use them off-campus. It is easier then carrying cash around."

AGGIE BUCKS

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dents would respond," Parhure said.

The University was quick to respond to the bill, Phillips said, and he was impressed the bookstores were allowed to use the Aggie Bucks system so soon.

Jeff Black, a senior staff member at the Loupot's Bookstore on Texas Avenue, said many people are separating their purchases at the counter.

The students are paying some of their purchases with cash, check or credit cards and the rest with Aggie Bucks.

"I think that it will really take a load off the students to be able to separate their charges," Black said.

Samantha Schiffhauer, manager of the University Bookstore on University Drive, said she is glad that students can finally use their Aggie Bucks off campus.

"Many students have asked if they could use them before and we always had to say no," Schiffhauer said.

"But now we can accept them."

THOMPSON

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wounds. Instead of losing funding, most of the nine A&M schools actually received more funding.

The only school to suffer from legislative cutbacks was Texas A&M, which was left with a \$6.7 million budget deficit.

It was during the session, Thompson admits, that he became the most frustrated.

"I felt, some days, 'Am I really capable of doing this job in a first class way?'" Thompson said. "But then I always answered, 'Yes, I probably am.'"

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, said Thompson's performance during the law-making session was his greatest accomplishment.

"That was probably his greatest success," Bowen said. "He kept the System together and kept all the schools cooperating."

Bowen characterized Thompson as a straight forward administrator who does not cut corners.

"He's a very open man," he said. "He lets you know where you stand. He has a very high intellect."

Thompson described himself as "open, focused and committed," but sees his impartiality as his strongest asset.

"What really motivates me is what I call the FQ, or the fairness quotient," he said. "I try not to play favorites. I try to be objective."

The former high school principal is not objective, though, when he discusses the future of education. He is a firm believer in the power of ed-

ucation, and the role students will play in its future.

Thompson said he is looking forward to the next century and what it holds for the System.

"I think the A&M System is one of the most popular university systems in the world," he said. "There's no question about that. If you look at the growth of our smaller universities, the increased demand for our services and the performances of our agencies, we are responding to the real needs of society."

However, the road to the future is has some obstacles. The A&M System is already facing serious problems with its rising popularity. Each year, the number of applicants to A&M schools continues to rise.

The schools, meanwhile, do not have the resources to grow along with the increasing demand for admissions. In the times of dwindling state funds, Thompson said, the question of expansion versus limited resources will become even more important to higher education in Texas.

"That's maybe the toughest problem facing Texas A&M right now," he said. "I think inevitably the political pressure is so great that A&M will be forced to expand. Year after year, when you turn down 2,300 to 3,500 qualified people because you don't have any room at the inn, you surely make a lot of former students mad."

Thompson said he hopes people remember him as someone who provided the tools to expand the System.

"I want to be remembered as a person who came up with a vision of what the System should be 10 to 15 years from now and put the resources in place to make sure that we get there," he said.

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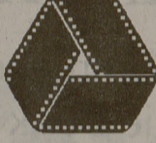
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